

• (1610)

While it is true that we must find ways of making industry do its job better, it is not helpful to find that the government is getting ready to cut 500 people from NRC. How is it helpful to our scientific and research and development effort to place under attack the National Research Council and to demoralize hundreds of scientists without revealing clearly what directions are to be pursued?

How does it enhance our research and development effort if our university sector, our basic research sector, still suffers substantially because money is being taken out of the university EPF area, and for all intents and purposes being transferred to other areas, such as scholarships and so on, about which the government is prepared to brag. Those are good programs, but for the over-all envelope those things which constitute a research and development area remain unchanged.

By the way, he says I put too much stock in doubling GERD. It was not I who promised back in 1983 to double GERD, it was the Prime Minister. It was not I or provincial branches of the NDP, it was the federal government, in consultation with the ministers of the provinces, who said they would aim at doubling the GERD, the percentage of GDP spent on research and development. If that 2.5 per cent is not this government's goal, tell us what it is and let us hitch up our bootstraps and get there. Let us have a goal.

The National Advisory Board on Science and Technology which the Prime Minister himself formed and for which we congratulate him says that we should have a specific commitment. If it is not 2.5 per cent, what is it and by when? We cannot keep on going as we are now.

Mr. Milliken: Madam Speaker, in light of the large number of members who wish to speak, I want to advise the Chair that, on this side of the House when we next have an opportunity to speak, members will have 10 minutes to speak and five minutes for questions and comments at the end of each speech, if that is satisfactory to the House.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): There are three minutes left in the questions and comments period.

Supply

Mr. Winegard: It may be that we will want to have another 20-minute speech and use up double our time, if necessary.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I thank the hon. member and the hon. minister for their comments. What the Chair would appreciate very much is if, at the start of a 20-minute block, the person involved would advise the Chair. It is easier to keep time and easier for the Chair to advise the hon. member that there is a minute left and he or she might want to come to the conclusion of his or her speech.

Resuming debate.

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister for Science): Madam Speaker, I hope you might give me one moment to respond to my hon. colleague, under questions and comments.

My hon. colleague said that government spending on R and D was cut. I would just like to give him the figure. In 1984-85, it was \$2.45 billion and in 1989-90, it was \$2.9 billion. In terms of government funding of industrial R and D, Japan funds 1.7 per cent of industrial R and D, Canada funds 11.8 per cent and Germany funds roughly around 12 per cent. So, we do our fair share of funding the industrial R and D, wherever industry is prepared to undertake it.

One other comment. I know there are many multinational corporations in Canada which do not do a significant amount of research, but I think it would be unwise for us to simply lump them all together. If one looks at Pratt & Whitney, IBM Canada, or some of the others such as Imperial Oil, they are among the leaders of R and D in the country. You cannot make that kind of blanket statement.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I see that the hon. member for Windsor—Lake St. Clair would like to respond but the time for questions and comments has expired. Do I have unanimous consent of the House to allow the member to answer?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Mr. McCurdy: The figures are clear. The percentage contribution by government has dropped by 4 per cent since this government has been in office. The part paid for by universities or contributed by universities has dropped 1 per cent. The percentage carried out by industry has gone up by 5 per cent. By God, over-all in the global estimate of who spends what, the govern-