

which have a destructive power one million times that of the Hiroshima bomb. This resolution proposed a bilateral, verifiable nuclear freeze as a first step toward nuclear reduction and disarmament. It recently passed 112 to 11 in the First Committee at the United Nations, with Canada opposing.

Some opponents of the freeze argue that a freeze at this time would be wrong because the Soviet Union is ahead of the U.S.A. Even if that is true, one does not require an absolute balance when one already has sufficient bombs to destroy all of mankind. The balance of power with respect to nuclear weapons cannot be judged in the same way as with tanks and rifles.

I voted for the Liberal amendment because it recognized the important new situation of the superpowers agreeing to meet on these issues early in the new year. I then voted for the principal motion on the freeze, despite some partisan clauses added by the New Democratic Party, because I thought that the freeze proposal was too important and should transcend narrow partisan interests.

Although the resolution was defeated, I hope we will have a chance to debate it again next year. This is a question of human survival, Mr. Speaker.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NEW MICROELECTRONICS ERA

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, we live in a time when vast scientific, technological forces like microelectronics are in action and promise to change our lives. These forces hold out a promise for longer life, labour saving mechanisms, new economic wealth, and thousands of new jobs.

We are entering into a new era with microelectronics with enormous increases in processing and memory capability. It is presenting the industrialized world with fast breaking processes of opportunity and change. It has recently been suggested by the president of one of Canada's high technology companies that this industry alone, at the international level, is a \$200 billion a year industry.

In 1982-1983 a committee of academic and industrial experts, formed with the support of the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council, recommended that two centres of world class excellence in microelectronics be established in Canada. The centres are to provide state of the art facilities for carrying out microelectronic research and to provide industry with access to leading edge technology. It is crucial that Canada develop prominence in microelectronics and semi-conductors if it is to compete internationally in this fast developing field.

I look forward to our present Government, which is providing such refreshing leadership, to support the development of these centres of excellence. Furthermore, Ottawa-Carleton is a logical place for one of these centres because the region is two years ahead of any other area in Canada, with the necessary

Oral Questions

infrastructure in place and the unique potential to relate to local industries.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA AGREEMENT—BACK-IN PROVISIONS

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Yesterday we in Canada suffered the indignity of hearing our energy policy announced in the United States before it was announced in this House and to the people of Canada. In view of the euphoric statement made by the Premier of Nova Scotia, when the Canada-Nova Scotia offshore oil and gas agreement was signed, on the benefits the back-in provisions would have for the people of Nova Scotia, can the Minister tell the House if consent to the proposed changes in the back-in provisions has been received from the Government of Nova Scotia?

Hon. Pat Carney (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I believe the Hon. Member in posing his question has ignored the fact that the energy policy was a key part of the economic statement which was presented in this House by the Hon. Minister of Finance. So the statement that it was released in the United States is simply not correct.

In view of the Hon. Member's specific reference to the back-in provisions, I can tell him that I have been in touch with Premier Buchanan, as has the Prime Minister, and with the Energy Minister of Nova Scotia, and we have committed to them that we will give them a better deal than they got from the previous administration. And they know that we will honour our word.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. MacLellan: May I say, Mr. Speaker, that the Government does not have it in its philosophy to give a better deal to the Province of Nova Scotia.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

POLICY CHANGES—REQUEST FOR COMPENSATION

Mr. Russell MacLellan (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): If the Minister is saying that the Government of Canada has not received the consent of the Province of Nova Scotia to the