

S.O. 21

THE JUDICIARY

NEWFOUNDLAND SUPREME COURT VACANCIES

Hon. Bob Kaplan (York Centre): Mr. Speaker, justice delayed is justice denied. Like all Canadians, the people of Newfoundland have a right to a fair and speedy trial, but at present a full 20 per cent of the positions on the Supreme Court of Newfoundland are vacant, including that of Chief Justice. This is the responsibility of the new Minister of Justice (Mr. Hnatyshyn), and his delay is unacceptable.

One reason for the delay in filling the vacancies mentioned in the St. John's *Sunday Express* is that there is widespread opposition to the Minister's reported plan to appoint the present Minister of Energy of the Newfoundland Government to head the court. The Canadian Bar Association has come out very strongly against the appointment of active politicians to the bench and the Minister of Justice has expressed a willingness to accept their advice. The Minister should do his duty and make the necessary appointments.

This is not a hypothetical problem, Mr. Speaker. There is a backlog of cases before the Newfoundland Supreme Court which must be heard. There are 31 criminal cases and 365 civil cases awaiting hearing. With five judges missing, the Minister of Justice should be called on to do his duty or resign.

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CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

AUDITOR GENERAL'S REPORT—CALL FOR SUSPENSION OF PRESIDENT

Mr. Bob Pennock (Etobicoke North): "Button, button, who's got the button?" At the CBC though the game is "Million, million, who's got \$57 million?" How can Pierre Juneau claim that the CBC has increased its operating efficiency when \$57 million is unaccounted for? In the CBC annual report the Auditor General claimed, "I am unable to express an opinion as to whether these financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with acceptable accounting principles". Is that good conduct, Mr. Juneau? I think not. The Auditor General went on to say, "In my opinion the Corporation did not maintain proper books of accounts". Is that good conduct, Mr. Juneau? I think not.

Can you imagine if a Minister of the Crown were to come before Parliament with \$57 million unaccounted for?

As a member of the Communications and Culture Committee I call upon the Minister to suspend Pierre Juneau immediately from his duties until this blatant incompetence is fully examined by the Public Accounts Committee.

● (1410)

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, just two weeks after the big talk in the Throne Speech about the need for new initiatives in the area of research and development, the Conservative Government has announced yet another round of budget cut-backs to the flagship of scientific research in Canada, the National Research Council.

These drastic new cuts to the NRC budget will cost the agency over \$20 million and eliminate up to 200 jobs. Irreplaceable research programs will once again be lost to Canada, including the very photochemistry and kinetics laboratory where Professor John Polanyi began his Nobel Prize winning work. Jobs and astrophysics research in an institute named after another Canadian Nobel Prize winner, Gerhardt Herzberg, will also be cut.

Since the Conservatives came to power, the National Research Council has been forced to endure a reduction of almost one-quarter of its budget and almost one-sixth of its workforce. Many of the most highly skilled scientists, technicians, laboratory assistants and support staff who have lost their jobs are my constituents. I can tell you that they are demoralized and disgusted with the Government's approach to research and science policy. It is no wonder that Canada is losing its scientific talent and intellectual resources to other countries.

When the Conservatives announced that they would double their spending on research and development in Canada, little did we dream that they would be cutting it instead in this dastardly way.

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AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

FIRE SERVICES EXEMPLARY SERVICE MEDAL—INELIGIBILITY OF RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. Bill Vankoughnet (Hastings—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, many retired firefighters across Canada are being discriminated against by their exclusion from the list of eligible candidates for the Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal.

The criteria for this honour stipulate that firefighters who have been on a force on or after August 29, 1985, with 20 years service, are eligible. Therefore a firefighter who retired on August 28, 1985, does not meet the eligibility requirements as outlined by the Chancellery of Canadian Orders and Decorations.

My concern is for those firefighters who served not only for many years before August 29, 1985, but for those who displayed exemplary qualities of leadership and selflessness,