

Oral Questions

drugs than they have until now. How much more does the Government think those multinational corporations need to induce them to stay in Canada?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, the industry of which the Hon. Member speaks is indeed profitable. Through this move some of those profits will be invested in research in Canada which will employ Canadian scientists. That is what this is all about.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Andre: With regard to projections of future costs, I remind the Member of the National Energy Program prediction of \$80 a barrel oil.

Mr. Orlikow: And you believed that.

Mr. Andre: Bear that in mind when you predict the future. Let us take this Bill to committee where we can consider the assumptions made in those projections. Hopefully we will come up with a more rational and reasonable evaluation. That is all I am asking.

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

ALGONQUIN RADIO OBSERVATORY

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology. The group of eminent persons to which he has referred, the Associate Committee on Astronomy, voted 11 to 0 in favour of upgrading the Algonquin Radio Observatory in addition to keeping it open. Will the Minister inform Members of this House why the recommendations of this group of dedicated professionals have been so totally disregarded?

● (1150)

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, I will naturally be in a much better position to answer that question when I receive the report of the task group I appointed this morning to look into these questions.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER CANCEL CUTS

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is directed to the same Minister. It is quite obvious that the Minister has not listened to this group. It is also obvious that he has not listened to recommendations of the National Research Council or to Canadians. Will the Minister now do the honourable thing and admit his mistake in not listening to these people, cancel the cuts to the NRC, and let this country go ahead in science and technology

and research and development as the Conservatives promised in 1984?

Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, we are very anxious to let the country go ahead with important research and science and technology efforts.

Mr. Gauthier: Then leave it alone.

Mr. Oberle: It is a strange twist of logic that both the Liberal Party and its socialist friends will do everything they can to prevent the introduction of a Bill—

An Hon. Member: You are the one that's doing the cutting.

Mr. Oberle:—that would create 3,000 research jobs—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order.

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REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO SMALLER PROVINCES

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton—Melville): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. I am sure the Deputy Prime Minister is aware that since the Conservative Party took office in September, 1984, employment growth in Atlantic Canada has gone up by only 3 per cent, while in Ontario it has risen by some 7 per cent. Despite those figures, the overwhelming majority of moneys of the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion has gone to Ontario and Quebec. Does the Government have any plans at all to increase the budget of the Department so that the smaller provinces receive their fair share of money for regional expansion programs?

[Translation]

Hon. Michel Côté (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I have already answered this question. I said earlier today that since 1984 this Government has helped the regions more than any other previous administration ever did.

I referred as well to some of the initiatives taken by our Government, and I should like to remind my colleague that he need only read the Speech from the Throne to see that again we are committed to continue helping the regions. We have already announced the establishment of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and made it clear we intend to diversify the western economy.

In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, we are making a sustained effort to help various regions of Canada.