

Science and Technology

National Research Council grants to support research in science and engineering in universities, where much of the fundamental work is done, are declining in comparison with most other indices in our society. The continuing shortfall has led to serious cutbacks in the level of activity in basic research to the detriment of our country. In the four years since April, 1970, NRC grant support has increased only 5 per cent, while the Gross National Product has increased 49 per cent and the Consumer Price Index 29 per cent. The lack of support for fundamental studies is a symptom of a general malaise, which in financial terms is far worse in Canada than in other developed countries. For instance, the funding allocated to broadly equivalent agencies in France, Britain and the U.S. has increased by approximately 50 per cent during the same period.

It is to be noted as well that in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, an organization of 27 western industrialized countries, of which Canada is a proud member, we did not rate so well. When you look and see what we are spending as a percentage of our gross national product on research and development, you will see that Canada is one of the lowest. When you take it as a percentage of our gross national product at market prices in constant 1961 dollars, countries like the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Norway and Japan are all ahead of us. Of the countries which are referred to in the October-November 1974 report of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development we find that Italy, which is almost bankrupt today, and Spain are lower on the list than Canada.

Earlier we heard the parliamentary secretary, the hon. member for London East (Mr. Turner), talking about the *Pisces*, the minister's submarine. I should like to point out to him that the government of Canada denied the sale of the *Pisces II* that was supposed to go to the Soviet Union. It was on the rails and being shipped from Canada when the government said it could not be sold. As a result of that the company built a subsequent submarine for the Russians under contract, taking the technology out of this country and assembling that ship in Europe where it had developed another company to get around this government's orders. The parliamentary secretary says he is taking credit on behalf of the Canadian government for helping the *Pisces* company.

I see you are about to get up as it is ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker. I wish I had a longer opportunity to speak as there are a number of things I should have liked to say about industrial strategy, but perhaps I will have another occasion to speak about this interesting topic.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It being ten o'clock p.m., it is my duty to inform the House, pursuant to Section 11 of Standing Order 58, that the proceedings on the motion have now expired.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

[Mr. Dick.]

NATIONAL PARKS—FUNDY NATIONAL PARK—REQUEST FROM ALBERT COUNTY TOURIST ASSOCIATION TO DISCUSS ENTRANCE FEE

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat surprised that neither the minister nor his parliamentary secretary are in the House to answer this question which has been a matter of debate since May 7. On that date I asked the minister to visit the Fundy National Park in the constituency of Fundy-Royal in order to see or learn at first hand the effect the proposed entrance fee would have on the park and on the village of Alma, which is the service centre and lies adjacent to Fundy National Park.

● (2200)

Fundy National Park does not have within its boundaries any facilities for the purchase of amenities with the exception of gasoline and automobile fuel of various types. There is no bank, post office or facility for the purchase of camping supplies. All such items must be purchased in the village beside the park. The park lies a substantial distance from the nearest community to the west. Therefore, people going through the satellite community for supplies, such as bakery goods and so on, normally go in and out of the park two or three times a day during their visit. Representations have been received from the Albert County Tourist Association, the Albert County Historical Society, the Village Council of Alma and the city council of Moncton, not so much protesting the fee, although each group does protest the fee, but rather suggesting alternate means of collecting the revenue. As a matter of fact, the suggestion was made that there be a pass for entrance privileges covering a period of 15 days for the \$2 fee.

Comparisons are made with western parks, particularly Banff and Jasper, but each of these parks has its own shopping facilities within the park boundary; so a \$2 fee will get a family into a park and they could stay there for the summer for the \$2 and obtain the supplies within the park. A senior official in the parks branch informed me that local residents of Alma would be provided stickers to affix to their car windshields. However, as of late this afternoon when I telephoned residents there I was informed that no arrangement had been made which would permit residents of Alma or of Albert County movement through the park on the public highway, Route 114. One resident put the situation somewhat dramatically, and I believe it is worth including in this debate. He said he will have to pay a fee to get into the park to place flowers on his family grave. That is somewhat dramatic, but it puts the story eloquently.

This fee has been opposed in an editorial in the *Moncton Transcript* of June 3. Also the Albert County Tourist Association has advised there is a substantial drop in commercial revenue within the village of Alma this season. The Alma post office shows a 27.2 per cent decrease in revenue over a three-year period. Questions I have raised at earlier times have pointed to a reduction in the number of visitors to Fundy National Park in the last few years. It seems to me that a park fee applied to all parks equally often means insensitivity to local needs, and I suggest strongly that there is a callous indifference to the fate of these people who have a very short business season. In Fundy National Park the longest season is about 90 days out of 365. This is