

NATIONAL DEFENCE

LOW LEVEL AIR DEFENCE CONTRACT—IMPORTANCE TO CHATHAM, N.B.

Mr. W. R. Bud Jardine (Northumberland—Miramichi): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Andre) announced that the low level air defence project has received final program approval by the Government, and that negotiations with Oerlikon-Buhrle have been successful in ensuring that the program is affordable under the defence capital budget. This billion dollar announcement again reinforces the Government's commitment to the Canadian Armed Forces.

The selected system will provide a capability which has no equal anywhere, and one that can effectively meet the threat of tank and aircraft strikes against our forces in Europe.

The military requirements which will make this system necessary include a training capability for the new equipment which will be established at the Air Defence Artillery School at CFB Chatham, New Brunswick. This indicates a firm military presence has indeed been guaranteed at this base.

On behalf of the people of Northumberland—Miramichi, I thank the Government for following through on a commitment which will ensure security for our forces in Europe and a future for the employees at CFB Chatham.

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MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

TRIBUTE TO WORK ON CANADA PENSION PLAN AMENDING LEGISLATION

Mr. Ted Schellenberg (Nanaimo—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, recent media reports might leave the impression that this House is a babble of banshees, that Hon. Members while away the hours calling each other names, and that we are constantly amid bedlam in this Chamber.

Just for the record it should be shown that we can co-operate here and accomplish a great deal. For example, on June 11 the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) introduced changes to the Canada Pension Plan Act. As reported at page 14249 of *Hansard*, he said:

I would like particularly to commend my two critics, the Hon. Member for Sudbury (Mr. Frith) and the Hon. Member for Beaches (Mr. Young), who not only have co-operated but have put forward suggestions.

Those Members responded in kind, describing how the committee discussed the reforms and how the recommendations were addressed in an orderly, adult manner. Those Members were not rewarded for their accomplishment. No bevy of microphones greeted them when they left the Chamber. No headlines trumpeted their co-operation. Barbara Frum had no time for them.

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[Translation]

And it seems that "Le point" didn't either.

[English]

They simply got the job done, and Canadians should know that that happens quite often in the House of Commons of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Sixty seconds.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

NEW POLICY ADVOCATED

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, among the most important unfinished business in Canada is that of a just and equitable settlement of the outstanding comprehensive claims of Canada's aboriginal peoples. In order to accomplish this goal there is an urgent need for a new policy on comprehensive claims which will affirm aboriginal rights rather than call for their extinguishment. As well, the new policy must ensure that Canada's first peoples have effective participation in the management of lands and resources, that they derive direct benefit from resource development, and that the political rights of aboriginal peoples be given constitutional protection.

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NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

SUCCESS OF IRAP PROGRAM

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, for many years the National Research Council has had as a priority the aiding of Canadian industry to improve its production and its innovation. Analyses show that the \$70 million IRAP program administered by NRC last year will result in \$1.5 billion in new sales and \$420 million in federal and provincial taxes. This is a tremendous return on the federal Government's investment, particularly when one considers that these activities will result in 12,000 full-time jobs.

Thus, for the second consecutive year the National Research Council has won the gold medal in the Canada Awards for excellence in technology transfer.

The IRAP program has been enormously successful, and I would encourage all Members of the House to endorse the continued support and enhancement of the program.