

Tabling of Documents

are more substantial questions than whether the action of Mr. Macdonald breaches the guidelines or not, and my question to the Prime Minister asked for a review of those guidelines, not whether, in fact, Mr. Macdonald's activities breached the guidelines in question.

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

Mr. Yvon Pinard (Parliamentary Secretary to President of Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, after discussion on the consideration of Bill C-58 relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, it seems that we could go through consideration of the whole bill between five and six o'clock tonight during the time usually reserved for private members' business. Having discussed with the leader of the official opposition, I would like to ask for the unanimous consent of the House to cancel private members' business between five and six o'clock today in order to dispose of all stages of Bill C-58.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This is a proposition which will undoubtedly be considered between now and five o'clock. In the meantime we have other matters with which to occupy the House.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[Translation]

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE**JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Fourth report of Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs—Mr. MacGuigan.

[English]

VETERANS AFFAIRS

First report of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs—Mr. Flynn.

[Editor's Note: For texts of above reports, see today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, under the provisions of Standing Order 41(2) I should like to

[Mr. Hnatyshyn.]

table two documents in each of the official languages dealing with the state of research and development in Canada.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Judd Buchanan (Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, with reference to the two documents which were just tabled, may I say that one of them is a discussion paper dealing with research and development in Canada in which a number of long term issues and policies are presented. It is intended to stimulate an exchange of views among the research sectors prior to the proposed federal-provincial ministers' conference on industrial research and development in the fall of 1978. The other is a document informing the House of a number of specific objectives and immediate measures the government is adopting to increase the level of research and development in this country.

The objectives are:

1. As a new national policy, to reach a target of 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product for research and development expenditure in Canada by 1983.
2. To use federal government procurement to stimulate industrial research and industrial development in Canada.
3. To encourage greater private sector spending on research and development and to create more job opportunities in, and through, science and technology.
4. To open federal laboratories to the private sector in order to encourage greater technology transfer between government and business.
5. To create industrial research and innovation centres to assist industry, particularly small business and private inventors, in the development of new products and technology.
6. To assist in the development of centres of excellence on a regional basis, both to build upon the diverse strength of Canada and to ensure local expertise and initiative.
7. To increase funding for university research in areas of national concern.

[Translation]

If we are to secure the future that Canadians expect, the attainment of these objectives is essential. A healthy R and D effort in Canadian industry is a necessary component of success in an international trading environment which is becoming increasingly competitive. At present, the level of industrial R and D in Canada is significantly lower than it should be. A number of measures have already been taken by the Government to correct the situation. They include: increased tax incentives for industrial research announced in recent budgets; increased funding of a number of direct assistance programs in 1978-79; extension of the contracting-out policy; increased efforts at transferring technology from government laboratories to industry; and introduction of an employment program in industry for highly-qualified manpower.