

S.O. 22

concept these days, so let us change the present policy and have geographical equity in the hiring practices of the RCMP.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

NATURAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING RESEARCH COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, the federal Government has a stated objective of increasing Canadian effort in research and development. Innovative technology is one of the focal points for the Government's trust to create jobs and to remain competitive in the technological world of tomorrow.

In order to achieve this goal, extended funding must be channelled into advanced research and training for scientists and engineers. The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, our country's major research funding body, calls in its second five-year plan for a \$1.4 billion increase to meet the critical need for improved research infrastructure and to increase the universities' capacity to produce adequate numbers of highly trained scientists and engineers. Without such action, Canada will fall further behind competing nations, and the economic consequences will be far reaching.

The Government must give careful consideration to the NSERC recommendations. Desirability of adopting the plan appears to be unquestionable. There is an urgent need for an immediate and sustained action to provide the stability necessary for the effective management of the Council's programs.

This investment should be viewed as a long-term investment into national effort to revitalize the economy and as a means of laying the foundation for our future achievements in science and technology. I strongly urge the Government to approve NSERC's second five-year plan.

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[Translation]

SMALL BUSINESS

COURAGE AND TENACITY OF CANADIAN ENTREPRENEURS

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard-Anjou): Mr. Speaker, during National Small Business Week, I would like to talk about the courage and perseverance of our Canadian business people. In fair weather or foul, they are always there, and thanks to them, millions of Canadians have jobs today. The Conservative Government consulted with business people at the beginning of its mandate, but after one year, no concrete and direct action has been taken by the Government. This is what the situation looks like:

Business people, their families and associates may not take advantage of tax shelters created by registered retirement savings plans to invest in their own businesses; \$500,000 in capital gains tax exemption for everyone over five years, with

no attempt to channel investment of these gains to small—and medium-sized businesses; not a word about the Federal Business Development Bank; the Small Businesses Loans Act has been amended to tighten up access and make it less flexible.

The Progressive Conservative Government's only positive action has been to adopt legislation simplifying tax measures applying to small businesses, something which had already been proposed in the Lalonde Budget. In a survey, the Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses indicated that 57 per cent of its members did not intend to invest in new businesses. This lack of confidence is caused by the attitude of the Minister of State (Small Businesses) (Mr. Bissonnette) and the lack of leadership shown by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney).

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● (1110)

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

"MADE IN U.S.A." PEACE TOWER REPLICAS

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, there have been discussions in our country about free trade, unemployment rates, and so on. Well, an interesting thing happened this morning. My constituency assistant, Michele Bellin, from Yorkton, came down to Ottawa. She wanted to buy a little gift for her husband Dale before she went back. She went to the House of Commons gift shop to buy something which is really Canadian and symbolizes the House of Commons. She picked up a little tie tack with a symbol of the House of Commons' Peace Tower. She thought that was a great symbol of Canada, made in this country. It happens that she picked up a box, it is a little blue box, sort of a Tory blue colour, and she looked inside the box and saw: "Made in the U.S.A.".

I think that is really symbolic of what is wrong with much of this country. Here is a symbol of the House of Commons, a symbol of this country, sold in the House of Commons' gift shop, yet it is made in the United States.

I think the time has come when we should get our act together, at least here in the House of Commons.

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[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

FUTURE OUTLOOK

Mr. Fernand Ladouceur (Labelle): Mr. Speaker, every indicator points to sustained economic growth in Canada over the coming years, as evidenced by the findings of the twenty-second Economic Council of Canada annual review and the Royal Bank of Canada forecasts.