

S. O. 21

research and development in all areas. I look at hundreds of positions in the National Research Council which have been shut down. I look at people with promising scientific careers who have not been taken on. I look at people who had another eight or ten years of productive scientific work ahead of them in the NRC who have been pressured into taking early retirement.

I look at that kind of tragic waste, which has been a product of the Government, and I say to myself, if I had the choice of having the space agency headquarters with 30 or 50 people in it in Ottawa, or having had a Government which dealt fairly with scientific research and development in the capital region, particularly in respect of the National Research Council, I would opt for fair treatment of the NRC. I think it is criminal what the Government has done to the National Research Council. I think it is criminal that the Government and Ministers like the present Minister have not been prepared to speak up on that particular issue and to come to the defence of the National Research Council. The NRC is to be commended for the fact that it is now stepping in to fill the gap because of the Government's inaction in terms of the location of the space agency—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

Mr. Tupper: Mr. Speaker, the report with which we are dealing in the House today and introduced by the Hon. Member for Grand Fall—White Bay—Labrador (Mr. Rompkey) is entitled *Canada's Space Program—a Voyage to the Future*. The report has been widely sought. If members of the public would like to get copies of it, they can do so by writing to the clerk of the committee.

Effectively the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy) ended his presentation this morning, or his critique if I may put it that way, by dealing with the National Research Council on the one hand and the space agency on the other. That was a really noble endeavour, but as an Ottawa area Member I think it is very important that the space agency be located in the national capital area. In his comment the Hon. Member said that he—and I hope I quote him correctly—“had supported the space agency” being located in the national capital area. I have two very simple questions for him, because it is awfully important that all Ottawa area Members be unanimous on the question of where the space agency should be located.

First, does the Hon. Member support the space agency being located in the national capital area today? Second, what is the position of his Party on the location?

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, I realize that time is short. I said *en français* that I did support and do support having the space agency headquarters in the capital region. I also pointed out that my Leader, when he was speaking at the University of Montreal the other day, indicated that in fact there were many reasons why Montreal was the logical place for it to be located.

This is why I spoke specifically about the degree to which the scientific community in Ottawa has been chopped by the Government.

I would cite the fact that the Hon. Member for Nepean—Carleton (Mr. Tupper) has not resigned or broken ranks with the Government on the criminal cuts in the National Research Council. If the space station is located in Montreal by his Government, we will then be in a position where not only is Ottawa losing a space station but it has also lost an enormous amount of important scientific activity through the National Research Council. Yet, Ottawa area members of the Conservative Party have failed to prevent that from taking place.

Mr. Greenaway: Mr. Speaker, I would just like to draw to the attention of the Hon. Member that over the last three years funding to the NRC has increased by 21 per cent. I think he is leaving the impression that the budget of the NRC has been cut and that it is suffering. It is not. It is being well looked after, and I think it is a much stronger organization than it was even a year ago.

Mr. Cassidy: Mr. Speaker, in 1984-85 hundreds of jobs were forced to be cut within the National Research Council because of the cuts imposed by the Government. Many of those cuts were achieved by attrition. Not only were scientific careers interfered with, but a great amount of important work by the NRC was in fact cut. Those cuts have yet to be restored in terms of effective operation of the NRC.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It being one o'clock I do now leave the chair until two o'clock later this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

TRADE

CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT—APPLICATION OF SALES TAX AND IMPORT DUTIES

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) has done her best to deceive Canadians about the Government's trade deal with the United States with regard to bringing goods into Canada without paying duty, sales tax, or without limits on the amounts. She said in a recent speech that she had been asked if free trade meant you could bring anything you wanted back from the United States without paying duty, and the answer was yes.