

Economic Development

Even if this Liberal government could reach 1.5 per cent by 1985—and I will predict right here and now for the record, timelessly inscribed in *Hansard*, that it will not even come close to 1.5 per cent by 1985—how would that compare with research spending by other major countries, particularly those which we regard as economic world leaders? Our present level of .9 per cent compares very unfavourably with the 2.4 per cent spent in the United States, the 2.1 per cent in the United Kingdom, the 2 per cent in West Germany, and the 1.7 per cent in Japan.

All the economically successful nations spend at least twice as much on research as we do. Can it be a coincidence that we continue to sell off our resources to pay for a standard of living which we have not earned, that we export our muscle power in order to buy back Japanese brain power, and that we continue to bolt together big American gas-guzzling cars which the Americans generously allow us to produce and then have us experience the massive unemployment in Canada's automotive industry while we continue to purchase the far better designed products of Japan and Germany, the Toyotas and the Volkswagens? It is not a coincidence that the countries which invest heavily in high technology create jobs for their citizens while ours are laid off.

Does our .9 per cent research spending compare well with other less developed nations? Well, you will be pleased to know, Mr. Speaker, that we are just clobbering some nations. For example, we are miles—sorry, kilometres—ahead of Spain, Portugal and Turkey. We have even managed to match Ireland and Italy, but that is where it ends. We do not even measure up to Iceland and Finland.

So, there you have it, Mr. Speaker. We have a disgraceful record of technological innovativeness by a bankrupt group of politicians, and it is this group to which the country looks for leadership in the next four years. The country looks for leadership from a group with a proven record of failure, from a group which must tinker with the constitution of Canada as a smokescreen to hide economic ineptness, a group which would rather argue about constitutional change instead of attitudinal change, about patriation while they deal in procrastination, about working formulas when they should be worrying about just plain working, and all of this in two languages, which probably will not work at all.

What can an opposition member say to a government which does not understand or cannot cope with the real problems of a nation? How can one get through to unimaginative or politically myopic minds which in the Trudeau years carried Canada to lower and lower levels of performance? Could I beg them to read the records and to learn from past mistakes? It is not my imagination; there are official records of lower technological growth, lower productivity, higher unemployment, bigger deficits and bigger debt, higher taxes, no plan for resource development, particularly in the critical area of petroleum energy, and perhaps most important of all, no development of a national will or purpose as exemplified by the appalling condition of our defence forces through lack of

good equipment and far too few numbers both in the permanent and militia forces.

Instead of using the American technique of stimulation of high technology research and beneficial spin-off through defence purchasing, this government will reduce purchasing under DIP, the defence industry productivity program, from \$31.5 million in 1979 to \$26.5 million in 1980. All of this is a sad commentary on a country which in its infancy built a transcontinental railway as a national dream, for a country which built an inland seaway of tremendous magnitude, or for a country which called out to the rest of the world at Expo '67, "Look at Canada, the up and coming world beater". However, all of this was "PT" development, "prior to Trudeau".

● (2030)

Is there any hope that the new Trudeau government will put an unhyphenated Canada first and take the strong and urgently needed steps to develop the country's future in a manner which will instil a national sense of purpose, create thousands of new jobs for Canadian young people who want to work but find a faltering economy, a government which, having misled the Canadian public by promising cheap energy prices could redeem itself by now being honest and admit it was wrong and which chose to pay Mexicans \$36 per barrel for all the oil they will sell us but would not pay fellow Canadians more than half that price and at the same time create jobs and investment opportunities here in Canada? Mr. Speaker, when did the Mexicans last invest in Canadian jobs? I suspect if oil were found in Quebec today, we would soon be at world prices.

I hope the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) can see his way clear to deal truthfully with the country and bring in not only the proper pricing formula for oil but also implement the dynamic action needed to capitalize on increased resource revenue to launch the tar sands plants and frontier drilling which will make us self-sufficient in energy by 1990.

Another grey area is industry, trade and commerce. In opposition the present minister declared that increased research and development should be a condition of helping Chrysler but it remained to the Ontario Progressive Conservative government to implement that condition in the Chrysler bail-out.

When will we stop hearing partisan political platitudes instead of constructive job-creating action from the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray), who personally represents one of the country's ridings most seriously affected by the huge job lay-offs caused by past Liberal industrial policy ineptness?

The third minister of the strike-out is the new Minister of State for Science and Technology. He comes to the plate wearing two hats and carrying two bats. Environment is his first preoccupation and, by working at that, he has managed to keep out of trouble in the vital field of research funding and development, that is, up until this week he kept out of trouble. But now, consistent with the total lack of research policy of past Liberal governments, the new minister who is not a