

In 1989 over \$5 billion was spent by the federal government. Since 1984 more than \$2.5 billion in new moneys has been spent on federal science and technology, and the \$5 billion figure is for direct funding only.

In addition, the federal government indirectly funds university research and development through Established Programs Financing transfers and industry, research and development through a system of research and development tax incentives.

The achievements and initiatives resulting from federal support of basic research are truly significant. There are many examples such as the funding to the tune of \$7 million for the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research with its unique capacities to form networks of co-operation in such fields as robotics and biotechnology. There has been the selection of 14 networks in the \$240 million networks of Centres of Excellence Program which links industrial, university and government scientific research in engineering, natural and medical sciences, manufacturing, business, resource and high technology sectors all across the country. Each network involves from 5 to 25 institutions and companies.

It is interesting to note here, Mr. Speaker, because I know you will be very much aware of this, that out of the 14 centres the University of Calgary was affiliated with 7 of them. I believe your university, the University of Alberta situated in Edmonton, was affiliated with 8 of the 14 centres.

There is also the Canada Scholarships Program which has a budget of \$80 million. It awards 2,500 scholarships annually to recognize and encourage more of our top students to pursue undergraduate studies in natural sciences and engineering. Academic excellence is the basis for selection with a minimum of one-half of the scholarships being presented to outstanding women.

I have just completed 10 letters to people in my constituency who won these scholarships this year. I think that shows right across Canada how much we appreciate and how much we are trying to inspire young people to get into the roles of engineering and science. It certainly is the future of this country.

• (1330)

I do recognize that there is always a need for more funding. However, I also recognize the new five-year

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plan coming from NRC, where it is studying each particular area, and looking at new areas. If Canada is to keep up, we must not become stagnant but we must always be aggressive enough to see what is out there and what we must grasp hold of.

Basic and applied research is important. As chairman of the Standing Committee of Industry, Science and Technology, we had about about 15-17 witnesses before us. They all stated that it is not the money—money is very important—but it is rather how the money is managed. We must learn how we are best able to interest and stimulate our industries here in Canada to take on research and development themselves and how to stimulate youngsters to study science and engineering. It goes right to the elementary and secondary level of school education. It is a major problem. I know that level of education falls under the jurisdiction of the provinces. Perhaps it is time to have a debate on whether the federal government should suggest some sort of a standard of education, but we will leave that for another day. There is no doubt that I support stimulating all young people to get involved in science and technology.

In conclusion, this government gives total support to S and T, to R and D and we look forward to Dr. Perron's five-year plan from the NRC and we look forward to supporting the NRC as best as possible.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Eugène Bellemare (Carleton—Gloucester): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to answer the conservative member for Calgary—South-west.

[*English*]

I heard her huffing and puffing about all the good things that the government has been doing. Before asking her the question, I would like to make a comment about the National Research Council, which is located in my riding of Carleton—Gloucester and where most of the employees reside.

The cut-backs to the National Research Council in November, 1984, when the present government came into power, cut the NRC budget by \$60 million. They cut the Energy Division, the Environment Secretariat, the Manufacturing Technology Institute, The Institute for Electro-Chemistry, and the Cold Regions Research Institute amounting to 80 lay-offs.