

Inquiries of the Ministry

research and development and, if so, when can we expect a statement to be made?

Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the budget of my department, contrary to those statistics, indicates that the degree of research and development done across the board in Canada with the support of my department is increasing. If my friend wants to look at my estimates he will witness that fact.

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REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION**OMISSION FROM MONTHLY REPORT OF GRANT TO
McCain's FOODS**

Mr. John Burton (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my question to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of the fact the minister undertook to investigate a serious omission from his monthly report to parliament of a \$6.1 million grant to McCain's Foods, and in view of the reported unavailability of the minister to appear before the standing committee until May 18, will he inform the House now why this information was not provided as required under section 16 of the Regional Development Incentives Act?

Mr. Horner: That was the third grant to McCain's and they were the bagmen in New Brunswick for the Liberal party.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Horner: They were the bagmen for the Liberal party in New Brunswick and that is the third grant they got from the Liberal party.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I don't understand—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I would request hon. members—

Mr. Horner: That is true and you know it is true.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Horner: You are not denying it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I recognize the hon. member for Regina East.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister could be given the opportunity to respond to the question.

Mr. Horner: Are grants only for Liberals?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. This shouting across the floor—

Mr. Ricard: Act like a minister.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

[Mr. Crouse.]

Mr. Horner: Is the Liberal party that broke in New Brunswick?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps we might wait—

An hon. Member: It shouldn't be.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister will be recognized for the purpose of replying to the question when the noise has subsided and the Chair has a chance to hear the reply.

[Translation]

Hon. Jean Marchand (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, it was agreed that I would go before the committee again. In my opinion it is not fair to say that I delayed because the last time I was there it was understood that it would be the last. I intend to go back and I will be pleased to give the information requested by the hon. member.

[English]

Mr. Nielsen: Answer the question.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. The minister agreed the last time we were before the committee to provide the information to the committee and indicated he thought he would be available this week to appear before that committee. What is the matter? What is he hiding for?

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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[Translation]

YOUTH**OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH PROGRAM—RESIGNATION
OF MR. BUREAU—STUDY OF CRITERIA BY HOUSE
COMMITTEE**

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Secretary of State.

Mr. Bernard Bureau, project officer for the Ottawa area, having resigned as a result of political interference in the selection of Opportunities for Youth projects, would the minister now be willing to submit for examination by hon. members, that is by a committee of the House, the practical criteria used in the selection of projects approved under the Opportunities for Youth program?

Hon. Gérard Pelletier (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, the criteria used in the selection of projects are those which were sent to hon. members. I am surprised the hon. member should ask that question since he has already had those criteria for two months; had he wanted to study them, he would have had every opportunity of doing so.

An hon. Member: He was not here.

**REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO ACCUSATIONS OF
POLITICAL INTERFERENCE**

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a supplementary question.

Due to the charges of political interference at the decision making level, would the Secretary of State undertake