

Oral Questions

• (1440)

SOCIAL HOUSING—WAITING LISTS

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, that deficit is the result of a high interest rate policy of this Government which—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Martin: —comes directly from its lack of credibility in the business community. It is inconceivable to me that this Minister who was so articulate as a back-bencher would now pursue this policy with 500 people in Halifax who are on the waiting list, and 15,000 people in Toronto are on the waiting list for this kind of housing. The Minister says that it is the deficit. Let us accept that. Let us accept the Minister within that context. Last week, this Government announced that it was going to spend—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martin: —\$2.7 million on advertising for the obscene Budget. My question is—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Martin: —what does this tell us about this Government's priorities?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Alan Redway (Minister of State (Housing)): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has obviously decided that today is the day to launch the leadership campaign.

An Hon. Member: That is right.

Mr. Redway: The Hon. Member is aware that this Government and this Minister have placed affordable housing as a high priority. I am examining every possible resource that we have available to us to maximize those resources to create more housing that is affordable for Canadians.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

FINANCING—OBJECTIVES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Minister claimed that research and development expenditures

should represent 2.5 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. In view of the fact that the level of these investments remains as it was in 1983 and that the Budget does not propose any means to increase these investments, does the Prime Minister still believe that his objective of 2.5 per cent can be achieved? If not, what objective does he feel could be achieved?

[English]

Hon. William C. Winegard (Minister of State (Science and Technology)): Mr. Speaker, I do not think my hon. colleague has bothered to read the Budget. If he had, he would know that all of those items in the Budget for research and development are still there.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Winegard: The \$240 million Centres of Excellence Program is still there. The \$200 million that is going to the councils is still there. The \$80 million to the Canada Scholarship Program is still there. Bill C-22 and the money that will bring in in terms of R and D is still there.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Winegard: The advanced industrial materials program is still there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Winegard: The biotechnology program is still there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Winegard: The information technology program—

An Hon. Member: That is still there.

Mr. Winegard: Thank you.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, the level of spending on research and development is still 1.3 per cent. The Prime Minister takes a great deal of pride in chairing the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology. This group of eminent scientists has made many recommendations to the Prime Minister, including a doubling of the base budgets of the Research Granting Council and a subsequent indexing of those budgets at one and half times the growth of GDP.

Is the Government going to act on these recommendations from the National Advisory Board? If not, will the Prime Minister stop wasting the time of scientists who