

*The Late Alexander Small*

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENT POLICY AND MEASURES

**Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West):** Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks the Opposition has been uncharacteristically silent about science policy. I have not refrained from criticizing government policies when I felt they needed criticism, but fairness demands that when real progress is made we are as even-handed with our praise as we are with our criticism.

Real progress is being made. First, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) established and now chairs a National Advisory Council on Science and Technology. Second, the Estimates tabled recently give the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle) and the research councils substantial real increases in funding. Third, the Minister negotiated a genuinely historic agreement with the provinces to co-ordinate national science policy. Yesterday he gave us the broad, general direction of the federal strategy to promote scientific and technological development in Canada. There is more to come. The situation is not perfect but this House really should applaud the Prime Minister, the Minister and the Government for the real progress made in recent months in bringing science and technology policy to the forefront of our national priorities.

\* \* \*

[Translation]

## IMMIGRATION

## MINISTER'S ROLE

**Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier):** Mr. Speaker, the problem of 17 Lebanese immigrants was raised in the House by my colleague for York West (Mr. Marchi), and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) missed a golden opportunity to show compassion by using his discretionary power to relieve the sufferings of these 17 people.

A Minister of Immigration ought to know the value of human life. His main responsibility consists in preserving the dignity of men and women who are hoping to find refuge in Canada.

But what does he do? He hides behind the mountain of paperwork to justify his actions and his decisions. He is totally insensitive to the fact that 17 desperate and helpless individuals are carted around from one country to another and from one airport to the next.

Instead of being adamant and inflexible the Minister should contact the Canadian embassy in Damascus to find a temporary refuge for these people while waiting for his officials to deal with the required red tape formalities.

In addition, since some of these immigrants have relatives waiting for them in this country, my own riding included, in this case the Minister should use his discretionary power to re-

unite the families involved as soon as possible, thus saving them from further torments and worries.

\* \* \*

[English]

## THE LATE ALEXANDER SMALL

## TRIBUTE TO FORMER TABLE OFFICER AND DISTINGUISHED EX-SERVICEMAN

**Mr. Speaker:** Hon. Members will want to pay some attention to the following statement which it is my unhappy duty to make. I ask for the attention of all Hon. Members.

Hon. Members will no doubt have learned that Mr. Alexander Small, a former officer of this House, died on Saturday, March 21. I am sure all Hon. Members would agree that it is fitting for me to pay tribute to him for his past services and express, on behalf of the House, our deepest sympathy with his family.

Alex Small joined the House of Commons staff in 1952 as a committee clerk. He gained steady promotion, becoming Assistant Chief of English Journals in 1958 and Chief of Journals in 1961. In 1964, as part of an administrative reorganization of the House of Commons, he became Director of Legislative Services and Third Clerk Assistant. In 1969 he was appointed Second Clerk Assistant, a position that he retained until his retirement in 1982.

● (1420)

Alex Small served as a Table Officer for a considerable part of his career and his face was familiar to many of us who are still Members of this House.

Alex Small also had a distinguished war record in the Royal Canadian Air Force and was held as a prisoner of war during the last year of the war.

He died following a courageous fight with cancer, and will be greatly missed by his friends and all who knew him.

On behalf of Members of the House of Commons I will convey a copy of this message to his family.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

## PATENT ACT AMENDING LEGISLATION—U.S. REPORT ON FOREIGN TRADE BARRIERS

**Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, although I thought I saw the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs earlier, in his absence I will direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I see we have now flushed him out, Mr. Speaker.