

S.O. 21

THE ECONOMY

APPEARANCE OF DR. WEITZMAN BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE

Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie): Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw to the attention of the House the fact that Dr. Weitzman appeared as a witness this morning in front of the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration.

Dr. Weitzman is known world-wide as the author of *The Share Economy: Conquering Stagflation*, which is acclaimed in many quarters as the best idea since Keynes.

We were privileged to have had the opportunity to hear Dr. Weitzman. We encourage the Government to follow suit with the examination of labour force adjustment.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Weitzman for sharing with us here his expertise and knowledge.

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[English]

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SIZE OF FUNDING FOR NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Mr. David Berger (Laurier): Mr. Speaker, "Was there ever a worse year for science and technology than 1986?" This question was asked by the English magazine, *New Scientist*, in a year-end editorial pointing to, among other things, the *Challenger* and Chernobyl disasters.

Similarly, many Canadians could not be faulted for asking: was there ever a worse year for science and technology in Canada? Let us face it. The Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle) had a downright miserable year in 1986. But he has the opportunity to redeem himself in 1987. He could start off by cancelling his ill-considered cuts at the National Research Council. In light of new revelations that these cuts could seriously damage our air defences, the Minister should immediately order that the cuts be cancelled.

● (1405)

The Minister does not need the task force that he appointed to tell him what is right and what is wrong. How much more evidence does he need? Our national security is at risk. The Minister should act now.

TRADE

CANADA-UNITED STATES SOFTWOOD LUMBER AGREEMENT—
CRITICISM OF ONTARIO PREMIER'S POSITION

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey—White Rock—North Delta): Mr. Speaker, the following is an editorial statement which was read by Warren Barker of radio station CKNW. I wish to read it unedited:

Among the provinces Ontario is the principal critic of the softwood lumber deal with the Americans.

Ontario Premier David Peterson has become a loud voice in the chorus protesting that the 15 per cent export tax jeopardizes Canadians' sovereignty and creates a dangerous precedent, under which the U.S. may now demand similar concessions from a string of other Canadian export industries.

The December 30th softwood lumber agreement did not create the precedent. The real precedent—the landmark "special deal" on over-the-border trade—was the Canada-U.S. Auto Pact, which for a generation has enriched Ontario. While Peterson condemns Ottawa for making an agreement with Washington to protect the forest industry, the Ontario Premier is loudly defending the special deal that has artificially concentrated a disproportionate share of the North American auto industry in his province. Peterson demands that the Mulroney Government scuttle free trade negotiations rather than consider any revision of the Auto Pact.

The Americans argued that our lumber industry was unfairly subsidized. But what about government subsidies to the auto manufacturing industry in central Canada—particularly Ontario?—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his time has expired.

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CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

APPOINTMENT OF FEMALE GENERAL

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, all Members of the House should note with pride the appointment of Canada's first female General. Brigadier-General Sheila Hellstrom has breached one of the last bastions of male domination in Canadian society. She has done so on her own merits.

Brigadier-General Hellstrom has been a member of the Armed Forces for 30 years. She earned her promotion by working her way up through the ranks. It is also important to note that Brigadier-General Hellstrom spent her entire career in either personnel or administration. I am not denigrating her chosen career. But it must be tough to reach the rank of General in a narrow field. After all, there are only so many senior positions in personnel and administration.

We may see more women Generals if more areas were open to them in the Canadian Armed Forces. That will only happen when the Government realizes that women should compete with men on the basis of individual merit for all positions in the Armed Forces. I look forward to the day when the promotion of a woman to the rank of General is no news at all.