

*Government Orders*

was National Research Council scientists who were able to find out exactly what the problem was.

So the NRC has provided great scientific service to Canada over the years. By cutting back the funding to the National Research Council, the Tories in this country are doing a great disservice to Canadians.

It is easier to understand this ideologically because the Conservatives essentially believe that research and development should be done by the private sector. However, there are a few horror stories that show that this should not always be the case, that there should always be the ability on the part of government, on the part of the representatives of the people, either to do pure research on behalf of the people or to audit the research that is done by private organizations.

One of the classic examples of this is the Industrial Biotest Laboratories scandal in the United States. This happened in the 1970s, so many people might not remember. IBT Labs were a subsidiary of a chemical company and at that time the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States, under a similar kind of privatization ideology to that enjoyed by this government, decided that they would not use government labs to test pesticides. Those chemical companies which were applying for the registration of pesticides would have private labs do the examinations, toxicology studies and all the other studies that were necessary in order to justify the registration of those pesticides through the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States.

It was found out, after an examination by the office of management and budget in the United States, that 737 tests done by IBT Labs in the United States were faked in order to get those chemicals registered as pesticides in the United States. Over 200 pesticide chemicals were involved and, as a result, the Government of the United States and the Government of Canada were forced to spend hundreds of millions of dollars in order to go through all of IBT's scandalous pseudo tests to find out which ones were accurate and which ones had been faked. They then had to go through the process of deregistering pesticides that they found out were teratogenic, that is they led to monstrous birth defects, or

carcinogenic, that caused cancer, which information had been suppressed by IBT Labs in the United States.

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Canadians and people in the United States who believe in the so-called values of privatization must understand, from that example, that as a result of what IBT did in the United States, as a result of the scandalous suppression of information in those toxicology tests, hundreds of Canadians today may be dying of cancer or giving birth to children with monstrous birth defects.

In spite of the information gained and the lessons we should have learned from IBT, the fact is that, for example, the Government of British Columbia has just privatized its environmental lab and now people in British Columbia are complaining about the very low quality of environmental research and environmental testing that is being done in British Columbia. It is actually inhibiting the clean-up and the enhancement of our environment on the west coast and creating serious problems for people in the fishing industry and people who depend on fresh water supplies and also on the life-sustaining capabilities of the marine environment on the west coast.

I have some serious concerns about the ideological propensity of the Tory government to cut back on research in order to encourage research being done in the private sector because that research tends to be of lower quality and also tends to be more self-serving and in some cases, as in the IBT example, is extremely suspect.

I had a case in my riding which does not relate directly to scientific research but which relates to public funding of applied research that can have an impact on how Canadians are served by the scientific community. In the Toronto Children's Hospital we had a doctor whose name, I think, was Ian MacDonald. He became an expert in reconstructing the craniums and faces of children who were born with extremely distorted faces. Those kids were often abused by the other kids at school. They were rejected by their parents. They ended up living short, unhappy, terrible lives.

Dr. MacDonald was able to put together a team at Toronto Children's Hospital which developed surgical techniques and treatment techniques. As a result of the public support given by Toronto Children's Hospital, he