

increases on the consumers of Canada than the budget which the hon. member supported unsuccessfully in December, 1979.

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[Translation]

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

GRANTING OF SUBSIDIES—INQUIRY WHETHER COMPENSATION PROGRAM IS CONTEMPLATED FOR QUEBEC

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment. Recently his department published a report indicating the regional distribution of federal subsidies for research and development. The published statistics clearly show that Quebec comes last on a per capita basis in the granting of those subsidies. Thus Ontario receives a yearly amount per capita of \$86 while Quebec receives a measly \$36. This is my question: is the government contemplating a catch-up plan in order to remedy this unfair situation not only for Quebec but also for some other areas of Canada?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): Madam Speaker, it is true that there are several factors governing the payment of subsidies made under the authority of the National Science Engineering Research Council or under the National Research Council. It is not merely a question of population, but the number of researchers and universities carrying out graduate studies, and several other factors are also taken into account. However, we are considering the problems raised by the hon. member and we are devising plans with a view to extending and correcting the few disparities which he pointed out in his question.

INQUIRY WHETHER GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO DECENTRALIZE CERTAIN RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question. In view of Quebec's special cultural make-up, will the federal government further decentralize some of its research bodies, such as the National Research Council of Canada, to make it possible for Quebec's scientists to work in an environment which is more congenial to them and more attuned to the priorities of that province in the areas of small business and its traditional industries such as the textile industry?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of State for Science and Technology and Minister of the Environment): If I understand the question correctly, Madam Speaker, I have already mentioned the case of the National Research Council. There are several statistical data related to various criteria. As I said, we are currently rethinking our policy to ascertain whether there

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are ways to correct the imbalance which some of the figures we have been quoted seem to indicate.

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● (1500)

[English]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

SALARY NEGOTIATIONS—QUESTION OF RETROACTIVITY

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Madam Speaker, could you do me the favour of directing a question to the Solicitor General? Members, other than when they ask for you seem to get very little response today.

Using terms such double-cross, shafting, bad faith, breach of trust, and God knows—

Madam Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member might help the whole process if he proceeded with his question.

Mr. Forrestall: I am, Madam Speaker. I have asked you to intercede for me. I understand that is your role.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Forrestall: The RCMP officers across this nation are desperately upset over what they consider to be renegeing on a clear undertaking by the Treasury Board last fall to make pay increases this year retroactive to January 1, 1981. Might I ask the Solicitor General, or ask you to ask him, why it is that he allowed Treasury Board and his colleagues to put himself in a position where the RCMP must talk tough and talk unionization in order to get from government fair and just treatment?

Hon. Bob Kaplan (Solicitor General): Madam Speaker, since the pay raise was announced I have been in four provinces speaking to members of the RCMP about the matter. I know there is some dissatisfaction. I appeared before the Treasury Board on the matter but we did not get everything we wanted. Frankly, nobody gets everything they want. I can report, however, that the increase we are to pay is a good one in the sense that it is in line with other pays now being set by the Treasury Board.

I also remind hon. members of the House, that, in general, police pay has increased more quickly than the national average across Canada. That is not only true for the present but going back at least 15 years. Members of police forces are doing better and the RCMP is doing better than at any time in the past in relation to what other Canadians are making.

I have also heard rumours about the possibility of withholding services and so on—

Mr. Crosbie: God help the Prime Minister if that happens.

Mr. Kaplan: —but I put very little stock in them. The RCMP has never failed to serve the Canadian people. It has never held back its services from the Canadian people, even at a time when its salary level was far lower than it is today in