

satellites and four which are being used for studies of the ionosphere. The first is called Allouette and it was launched on September 29, 1962. It is still going around up there and it is still useful. The second is the Allouette II and it was launched on November 29, 1965. Since then we have sent up Isis I and II as well as Anik—the name means “brother” in the Inuit language—and Anik II. These have established for Canada the first domestic satellite system. This is no minor technical achievement. This is an accomplishment worthy of international note.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Blais:** When was the last time anyone in this House got up and said: “Thank you, Government of Canada, for bringing Canada to the forefront in the aerospace industry”?

**Mr. Whittaker:** You are undoubtedly the first.

**Mr. Andre:** Those satellites were built by Hughes in Los Angeles.

**Mr. Blais:** The former minister of science and technology, the Minister of the Environment (Madame Sauvé), announced Canada's space policy in 1974 and indicated that we had achieved by leaps and bounds a very desirable position and that we were, as we say in French—

[*Translation*]

—“sur le plancher des vaches”. We had to start from there, determine the amount of our knowledge to be able to make progress. Then we also had to have access to development, that is we had to be able to build a new technology. To that end, the government, in order to encourage the private sector, decided to transfer to it a great part of its technological development in the space industry.

Since then, it has seen the need to retain access to the launching system. We realized that it was impossible for Canada, a low income nation in the international community, to develop its launching system. It was decided to use the U.S. facilities. It was a very wise decision. Nevertheless in order, to gain that access, we had to give the Americans part of our technological progress. It goes without saying that our knowledge was quite desirable since the Americans agreed to let us have access to their launching system at will.

Mr. Speaker, Canada is in the process of developing in co-operation with the United States a shuttle system. It is easy to understand that when a satellite is launched with a rocket that is not reuseable, an astronomical amount is lost. So, if a system could be developed whereby the rocket could be recovered and reused after launching the satellite, substantial savings would be possible.

● (2150)

[*English*]

Therefore, Canada has decided that it would spend money in order to contribute to the development of a shuttle satellite or a shuttle launching system. That is indeed a commendable attitude. Prior to preparing these particular remarks I unfortunately had not heard of the shuttle service. Fortunately, Canada is making advances in the scientific field. We are specialists in certain areas of

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scientific development but we are not receiving the publicity we ought to receive.

As an example, let me indicate that the hon. member for Rocky Mountain (Mr. Clark) in his speech said that the government of Canada was erroneously encouraging population development toward centres. That is absolutely misleading and incorrect. I would indicate to the hon. member for Rocky Mountain that many times in this House members in the backbenches of the governing party, as well as the government itself, have advocated policies which tend to reverse the tendency toward urbanization. I would call his attention to the policy of regional development. As a sitting member of the committee on regional development he ought to know that is one of the policies the government has attempted to espouse.

I draw to his attention as well the 1973-74 Annual Report of the Science Council of Canada where it is stated at page 20:

At its Thirty-Seventh Meeting (July 1972) the Council appointed a Committee to investigate the effects that present and future technology may have on population and demographic trends in Canada. Topics presently under investigation are: population growth and urban problems; allocation and use of land; emerging patterns in work and leisure; and technology, industrial growth and population distribution.

When I read that particular paragraph I phoned the Science Council of Canada and asked how far they had gone in their studies. They forwarded to me four voluminous working documents.

**An hon. Member:** Read them.

**Mr. Blais:** I will read them if you want me to. They go into detail in respect of the topics described in that report of the Science Council of Canada. If the hon. member for Rocky Mountain wanted to make some political statement about the lack of direction given by this government in respect of urbanization, he should have looked at these documents. He might then have been informed, if not enlightened.

I see that it is approaching ten o'clock, and I am sure there are members of the opposition, whose motion it is, who would like to have something to say either in reply or in rebuttal to my remarks, so I will cede the floor to them at this time.

**Mr. Paul Dick (Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, it is rather difficult at this late hour, with the few minutes left, to try to rebut all the intelligent things that have been said by the hon. member for Nipissing (Mr. Blais). It strikes me that we have just had an example of some of the gas that was taken away from that biomass.

In the short time I have left perhaps I might read from a letter provided by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of British Columbia, Mr. McTaggart-Cowan, in which he states:

As you are aware, the Government of Canada has been striving over the last four or five years to develop a coherent science policy. While it has been searching its soul its de facto policy has been to starve science until we have now reached a point where research output is declining and we are no longer able to cope with the training of young scientists who will take over from us in the years ahead.

In an open letter put out by the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Mr. Volkoff, and the head of the technology school, it is stated: