

Supply

Europe and Japan, but I see it is one o'clock. I think probably I have exhausted the answer to the Hon. Member's question.

Mr. Evans: No, you have not answered it all.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

The House took recess at 1.00 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): When the House rose at one o'clock, the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) was responding to a question. I understand that question was put by the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) and that the answer was completed. In the remaining ten minutes of the exchange period, if other Hon. Members wish to put questions I will recognize them; otherwise I will recognize the Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Johnston).

Are there any other Members who wish to make comment or wish to put questions to the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway?

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Minister of State for Economic Development and Minister of State for Science and Technology): Mr. Speaker, in my opening remarks I should like to comment briefly on some of the statements made by the Hon. Member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) and by the spokesman for the New Democratic Party.

The Hon. Member for Rosedale began with a series of themes. I do not think anyone in the House would have much quarrel with the themes themselves or with the concerns he expressed in a sincere and, I believe, a very committed way. I must say that I am tempted to align myself with the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway, however, who said that he heard a lot of sound and fury signifying nothing.

The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway also made the point that he and the Hon. Member for Rosedale had something in common. As I recall it, he said they were both short. I should like to say that they may both be short, but I regard both of them as Members of this House of considerable stature. I should also like to say that they are both fine spokesmen for their parties and have other things in common as well.

Perhaps one of the most striking things they have in common is that they are both progressive. Unfortunately, both are constrained in that they have to operate within the ideological limits imposed upon them by their respective Parties. Perhaps that is why they both also suffer from another common characteristic, a weakness, and that is an absence of policy.

The Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway took issue with the Hon. Member for Rosedale on that ground, and with justification. We heard no policy from the Conservative Party but we did not hear any policy from the New Democratic Party either.

Mr. Nickerson: We have not heard any from the Liberal Party either.

Mr. Johnston: The other thing that struck me in the comments of the Hon. Member for Rosedale was the facts upon which he often relied. I am not going to review the full range of statistics which he purported to lay before the House, but I should like to comment upon the issue of research and development.

The Hon. Member for Rosedale seems to be operating very much in history. I hope that does not mean he has joined the "conservative" part of the Progressive Conservative Party, because I have always regarded him as one of the most eloquent spokesmen of the "progressive" part of that Party. It is clear from the statistics that the Hon. Member for Rosedale has either not done his homework, has been careless, or is misinformed.

• (1410)

He spoke about the effort of research and development in this country as being 0.9 per cent of the Gross National Product whereas, in fact, since 1977 it has been in excess of 1 per cent at all times. A target was set by this Government of achieving 1.5 per cent of the GNP by the year 1985. In 1982 we are at 1.2 per cent, very much on track, I would suggest. This accusation that there has been no concern for or no movement on the issue of research and development is simply not true.

Similarly, there have been some very encouraging developments in the industrial sector. We all know that Canadian Government laboratories have always made a very important contribution to research and development. In fact, the ratio of their research to that of the country as a whole has been unduly large, principally because of the absence of the same level of effort on the part of industry.

Recently, in 1981, that industry increased its percentage over the previous year by 26 per cent and in 1982 by 23 per cent. For all sectors as a whole we find that in 1981 the percentage increased by 20 per cent, in 1982 by 18 per cent, and our target is 20 per cent for the country as a whole. Nevertheless, I suggest that given the kind of economic situation in which we find ourselves there is nationally by this Government, by the industrial sector and by the university sector, a very real commitment to enhancing research and development in this country.

When the Hon. Member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mr. Waddell) began to speak, particularly about the six and five program, I was about to say we were about to have some more "Waddell-Twaddle" in this House.