

station are likely to gobble up money that should have been allocated in other areas.

I also note with a certain amount of concern that the committee recommended in recommendation no. 10 that the use of Radarsat for arms control surveillance and verification was proposed only as an alternative and not as a primary purpose of the Radarsat program, as I believe it should have been.

Perhaps the Minister's Department could have co-operated with the Department of External Affairs on this particular question, because I would like to have seen Canada, as part of our space program, find the necessary funds, perhaps \$50 million or \$100 million was all that might be required, in order to offer to the United Nations an international satellite program that could come under the control of the United Nations for arms control surveillance and verification. Canada would be prepared to build and offer that to the United Nations, hopefully with partners, but we would be prepared to do it on our own if partners were not forthcoming. That is not there, and I am very sorry about that.

I note that the Government's response to this particular question is that it will continue to pursue the potential applications of remote sensor technology for the verification of arms control agreements. That is all very nice, but there is no sense of commitment there.

A few months ago I turned on the television and got hooked on the reruns of the television series "Space", which I hope the Minister has also seen. It was very well done. It was based on the James Michener novel. The Minister may recall one of the very touching scenes of a young man, a high school student, in a small town somewhere in the mid-west of the United States. He became excited about space because of his exposure to a world ranked astronomer whose observatory was located near where the young man and his girlfriend lived. They eventually became very much involved in the program and were central figures in the fictional but semi-realistic presentation of *Space*.

● (1250)

The Government has given the most wishy-washy set of responses on this particular area of which I can conceive in respect of the desperate shortage of scientifically trained manpower or womanpower for Canada's space programs. The Minister's response to recommendation No. 17, which calls for a study of the training and supply of space scientists and engineers, is that the Government shares the committee's concerns in this area and has a study under way to identify future personnel requirements. The Minister says that this is a necessary precursor to any study of the training and supply of space scientists and engineers. Once a demand study is completed, the Government will decide the need for and nature of a follow-on supply study.

It is time to stop studying and to start supplying, particularly if we bear in mind that it takes something over 10 years between the time a high school graduate enters a university

program and the time that the graduate is a competent and fully trained space scientist. We are talking about people from this year's graduating class who will not in fact begin to engage in an active and constructive way as fully trained space scientists until the year 1998 or thereabouts.

I know the comments with regard to that question which were made by some of the witnesses who appeared before the committee. For example, Professor Rostoker of the University of Alberta said that the lack of career positions in the space sciences over the past 15 years has led to a significant drop in the number of young people prepared to pursue a research career in that particular area. He concluded: "It is my opinion that the scientific community of space researchers in Canada is in no position to effectively participate in major new initiatives such as space station".

In my contacts with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council I have heard exactly the same testimony again, again, and again. It is not only the Government which is at fault, it is the previous Government, the Liberals as well. They have systematically choked off post-doctorate fellowships, support for academic research, and support for the kinds of programs which would help to encourage and develop space scientists. It is this Government which stopped the Black Brant rocket experimentation in Manitoba. It is this Government which shut down one of the observatories in Algonquin Park as part of its cut-backs to the National Research Council. It is pure hypocrisy for the Government then to turn around and say that there may be a problem. If the Minister were honest about this, he would recognize that the problem exists and has existed for some substantial amount of time and should have been addressed before now.

[Translation]

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about the Space Agency. As I said in my comments to the Minister, I am very disappointed that after eighteen months, the Government has yet to establish the Space Agency and announce where its headquarters will be located. I believe the choice is now between Ottawa and Montreal.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member from the Ottawa area, I obviously support the choice of Ottawa as headquarters for the Space Agency. I realize, however, that as the centre of the aerospace industry, Montreal with its surrounding area has every reason to claim the Space Agency should be located in the Montreal area.

Mr. Speaker, when my Leader spoke at the University of Montreal not long ago, he stated in no uncertain terms that Montreal was a logical choice as headquarters for the Space Agency, since the city and surrounding area is the centre of our country's aerospace industry.

[English]

While I have supported putting the space agency headquarters here in Ottawa, I must say that that is not the primary question for me as an Ottawa Member who is concerned about