

Committee Reports

This is how it is perceived by the scientific community which just last week met here in Ottawa. Everything I am quoting happened in the last couple of months, although it has been happening year after year. I wish to quote an article from the Wednesday, December 10, 1980, edition of the Ottawa *Citizen*, headlined "Scientists fight for funds". I quote:

The cream of Canada's scientific crop in Ottawa this week to lobby members of Parliament for a bigger research and development budget and to issue a report card on how the politicians respond.

Dr. John Cowan, president of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies, said Tuesday scientists are "very upset with Canada's dismal research and development effort and don't plan to take it sitting down."

The Liberal government promised two and a half years ago to increase Canada's investment in research and development from the current 0.9 per cent of the gross national product to 1.5 per cent by 1985, he said.

"Since then absolutely nothing at all has been done to achieve that goal", he said. "The government has put us on the back burner while research and development is going down the drain in this country".

Canada's current level of spending on research and development, a total of about \$3 billion annually, "leaves us at the absolute bottom end . . . in the same league as some developing countries", Cowan said.

How can a government be so blind, deaf, dumb and stupid as to put research and development on the back burner in this country when, as I just said, by increasing funding by one-half of 1 per cent of the GNP, we can create 400,000 jobs? That would cut the unemployment figures in this country at this moment by 50 per cent.

What is being done in other countries? The Japanese certainly know what to do. They are spending a minimum of 2½ per cent of their GNP on their research and development this year, and they are planning to have it up to 4 per cent by the end of this decade.

We hear that they have cheap labour in Japan. That is not true. Japanese labour costs are on a par with those of the United States, but their productivity is higher. They are now surpassing the U.S. in industrial power. In the United States, research and development investment dropped 5 per cent since the late sixties, but not so in Japan. They see the light. Japan produced ten million more watches than were produced in Switzerland last year. Japan produces ten million cars annually, about one hundred times what it produced 20 years ago. This is now the equal of a good year in the U.S.

In Europe it is estimated that 300,000 scientists and technologists in university, government and industry are engaging in research and development. About the same number are employed in Japan. In Canada, we estimate there is somewhere in the neighbourhood of about 8,000 to 10,000 people employed in research and development. It has to be a national disgrace.

We have had some successes in this country and we can have a lot more. For instance, the University of British Columbia in my province recently experienced quite a phenomenon. They were awarded four Guggenheim Fellowships.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his allotted time has expired.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Mr. Collenette: Mr. Speaker, there have been some discussions among the parties. In view of the unusual length of this debate, we have agreed to seek unanimous consent to allow three reports from standing and special committees to be presented at this time, and also to read the questions on the order paper.

Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton): Yes, Mr. Speaker, there have been those discussions and we are agreeable.

Mr. Knowles: Agreed.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENCE

THIRD REPORT

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I thank the House for its co-operation. On Friday, July 18, 1980, the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence received an order of reference from this House to consider Canadian policy with respect to the North American Air Defence Command (NORAD) Agreement and to report thereon no later than December 31, 1980. Mr. Speaker—

[Translation]

—I have the honour to present the third report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence concerning NORAD.

[English]

I thank hon. members for their co-operation and those who worked very late last night to produce this report on time. Members of all parties should be thankful for a well-performed task.

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[Translation]

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REGULATORY REFORM

Final report of Special Committee on Regulatory reform—
Mr. Berger.