

garage somewhere between Ottawa and Montreal. It is getting a little tiring for the workers and their families who depend upon that decision. I am just wondering whether the committee discussed the issue, and if not why it did not do so. It would help the Government to make a decision.

**Mr. Rompkey:** Mr. Speaker, I thought the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) was a friend of mine. It is at times like this that you learn who your friends are, Mr. Speaker.

The committee discussed it, yes. It heard extensive representations on the part of both Montreal and Ottawa. We decided very clearly and unequivocally—there was no question about it—that it could not go in Goose Bay. We came to that absolute conclusion. However, apart from that option there were other options open.

Obviously there were arguments on the part of Montreal, because that is where a lot of the firms are and where a lot of the work is carried out. Edmonton was peripherally considered, as a matter of fact as an adjunct to the mall, recognizing the kind of technology which is going on in submarine warfare in the West Edmonton Mall. It was a clear indication of the eminence of that city in science and technology, but it had a peripheral kind of influence.

Clearly Montreal had an argument to make because of the firms located there and because of the kinds of activities in the area of high level and very excellent research that have gone on there.

However, Ottawa is the capital of the country, whether or not we like it. It is the capital of Canada and headquarters of many national organizations and agencies are located here. The point was made, of course, that it was not necessary to have access to a great deal of technological competence for the agency, in that the agency was an administrative arm. In theory we could have it anywhere—Goose Bay, Edmonton, or even Ottawa. Ottawa qualifies from that point of view, even though it is not the leading edge of the research industry in this particular area.

The bottom line is that the committee made no recommendation to the Government on location, but it made a very strong recommendation that there should in fact be a space agency and that it should be here and now.

**Mr. Tupper:** Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Hon. Member for Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador (Mr. Rompkey) for raising this resolution this morning and for prioritizing in the House a matter of imminent importance to Canada. It deals with science and technology, and in the sense Canada's future involvement in space is paramount for all of us. I think it is appropriate that we should be discussing the matter this morning. I notice that the Hon. Member's remarks, in review, related to the space station, space science, and to the space agency.

### Motions

A few days ago I was delighted in the House when the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) came out in support of the space agency being located in the national capital area. We have been waiting a long time to hear a voice from the Liberal Party on where the agency should be located.

I know the Hon. Member for Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador is the science critic for the Party, and he does an excellent job. He is really a splendid colleague to be associated with in the whole science forum. However, I must put the following to him this morning so that we put the matter to rest.

About 10 days ago his Leader announced in the City of Montreal that the Liberal Party in fact favoured the space agency going to Montreal, and I believe it was last week that we also heard from the Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier in the House. I have to put this question to my friend for Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador. In the Liberal caucus is he arguing that the national capital have the space agency or does he support his leader in this regard? I want to make it absolutely clear this morning across the land that in this House and in my own caucus I support the space agency being in the national capital.

● (1150)

**Mr. Rompkey:** Mr. Speaker, I am finding more friends all the time in this Chamber. I did not know I had so many.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Rompkey:** The Hon. Member for Ottawa—Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) is an outstanding Member of Parliament. He has looked after the wishes and the interests of his constituents for years. As evidence of that, he is sitting in this Chamber as one of the longest serving Members of Parliament. He has been looking after his constituents' interests consistently on this issue and on others, but on this issue for the past several years. He is doing his job as he should and he is doing it well.

I appreciate my colleague's words and I return them. He was an excellent chairman of the committee and I was sorry to lose him. During the whole course of the hearings here I was an English major trying to think about science and technology with no adequate background at all and I relied very heavily on the kind of scientific background we had on that committee. I have to say to my colleague that he is very unequivocal today. He is making a very strong pitch and staking out his ground. As chairman of the committee he certainly did not advocate that the committee take that position or stake out that ground.

The position the committee took was to make no recommendation to the Government on location. It is important that Canada have a space agency. We must and should have one and we should have it now. But the committee, including the Hon. Member, made no recommendation to the Government as to where the agency should be located. That is a political decision for the Government to take. The Conservatives wanted to be in Government. They are in Government and