

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION-PRICE WATERHOUSE STUDY

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, yesterday when the Price Waterhouse study was submitted, it was clear that the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion—he must have had a dressing-down by the Prime Minister, and we saw the results in the Cabinet shuffle—that in recent weeks and months the Minister had failed in his duty to Parliament and the Canadian people.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that several times during the past few weeks, I raised the subject of the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion and more specifically, the fact that the Department was completely “broke”. And every time, Mr. Speaker, the Minister categorically denied what we said. He said it was false, and today, we see that we were right about this grim state of affairs, and it has cost him his Cabinet post.

I think we have every reason to congratulate Price Waterhouse on their study, but we also have many reasons to be concerned about the way this Government is administering its departments. One wonders how a Minister could let his own Department get into such a mess. We happened to pick on this particular Department but I get the impression that many Ministers spend more time doing just about everything except administering their Department efficiently. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the Minister who has some experience in financial administration, will restore the necessary controls in his new post because frankly, the former Minister failed utterly.

* * *

[English]

SENIOR CITIZENS

RECOGNITION THROUGH APPOINTMENT OF MINISTER OF STATE

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, all too often the role that our seniors play in society is seriously underestimated and overlooked. Life does not stop after retirement. Our seniors can, and do, play a vital role in all aspects of Canadian life.

Yesterday Canada's seniors received long overdue, proper parliamentary recognition. The Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) set a wonderful precedent when he appointed my colleague, the Hon. Member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees), as the Minister of State for Senior Citizens.

This is an historic initiative for all seniors, as they now have a direct voice to represent their concerns in Parliament.

S. O. 21

Bert Hanmer, one of my constituents and a lifetime member of the Senior Citizens Council of Ottawa-Carleton, and all of his golden era colleagues, will now be able to make representations to Parliament through this wise, caring and experienced Minister.

After all that the seniors of our country have done and continue to do for Canada I am sure that every Member of the House welcomes this new Ministry.

Congratulations, Mr. Hees!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

* * *

HERBICIDES

USE ON PARLIAMENT HILL LAWNS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I was shocked this morning to see a sign on the West Block lawn stating: “This area treated with herbicide. Use at your own risk”. “*Secteur traité à l’herbicide. A vos risques*”.

The lawns of the House of Commons have always been a people place. They are not only to be well kept so that they are attractive to look at, but they should also be kept as an area that can be safely used and enjoyed by the people of Canada. Even crab-grass is better than herbicide. But lawn maintenance should not require herbicides.

The House of Commons should set an example for ecological sanity in a world that is turning irresponsible use of herbicides and pesticides into world suicide.

* * *

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM—GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, last week the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Oberle) announced that \$18 million in new funding would be given to the granting councils to support university research. On Tuesday, August 25, the former Minister of Supply and Services (Mrs. Vézina) announced that \$30 million in new funding would be provided to the Unsolicited Proposals Program, a program to promote advanced technology manufacturing.

Yesterday, the Minister of State for Science and Technology announced that the Government will be providing \$28 million in new funding to the National Research Council to support the IRAP, one of our most successful industrial programs. This program helps small companies use research developed at our universities and in government laboratories. Larkin