MAIN POINTS PUT FORWARD BY ATTENDEES

AT LIBERAL CAUCUS MEETING ON THE

COMMERCIALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT SCIENCE

November 14, 1996

There is inconsistency in the application of the 1991 TB policy on ownership of IP that results from federal government contracts.

Parliament does not pay enough attention to R&D.

Concern was voiced that too much emphasis was being put on the making of money aspect of government laboratories, at the expense of lack of attention to the other important roles of government laboratories e.g. clean water, air, regulation, support of policy activities.

The ability of government laboratories to generate knowledge of value to the private sector is being jeopardized by budget cuts.

Revenue retention policies of government laboratories are destroying traditional knowledge links between small high tech firms and the government laboratories i.e., small companies cannot afford to pay the fees the labs now charge for advice.

There is technology in government labs that can be exploited.

Government scientists do not know much about the commercialization process.

We don't have a "Canada, Inc." attitude, hence, there is a lack of trust between the government, industry, and academic sectors.

Licensing is a small part of the interaction between government laboratories and industry.

Money earned by a government laboratory doesn't go back to the originating lab, i.e. they are not compensated for their effort.

The U.S. charges very low royalty rates (e.g. around 1%)

Collaboration is being used more.

You shouldn't try to make bench scientists into entrepreneurs or marketers, let them do what they do best, scientific research.

Need to know about best practices in technology transfer.

Government labs should make greater use of the Internet in technology transfer activities.

An ombudsman position should be created to mediate disagreements between government and industry on technology transfer matters.

A government laboratory's technology transfer success should be measured against a broad set of measures, not just the number of licenses issued, or royalty revenues.

There is a receptor problem in industry for government technology and know-how.

Technology transfer officers need professional development.

Government research should not be limited to that which is funded or supported by industry.

Government laboratories should get credit/recognition when technology or know-how they provide results in success in the private sector.

Time is very important when a firm wants to access government technology or expertise.

Travel and conference attendance are important tools for scientists to identify commercial opportunities.

TB conference attendance restrictions must be removed on scientists.

Small high tech firms should be able to "pay" their share of a partnership agreement by an "in-kind" contribution.

"Partnerships" should not be a vehicle for government laboratories to "rip-off" the private sector for money.

Government laboratories should not abandon their links with large resource-based companies who might need help with process technologies or problems.

Government should be careful not to license out a "subsidized" technology that competes directly with a technology developed by the private sector.

There is a lack of high-tech entrepreneurs in Canada.

Revenue Canada should not tax funds targeted to help a firm commercialize a government technology.

Government departments should not insist on minimum royalty payments while a firm is in the R&D stage of commercializing a government technology.

Canada doesn't understand that basic research is an investment in the future, not a cost, hence we are cutting back on basic research while our competitors are increasing their investment in basic research e.g. Japan and Germany.

Don't let someone with an accounting mentality judge the value of R&D.

In the U.S., the recipient of a government contract which results in IP makes the decision on ownership of the IP, not the government bureaucrat.

Reward and recognition systems in government laboratories must reinforce the attitude that working with industry is important.

There should be personnel exchanges between government and industry laboratories.

The government laboratories are dying and, if nothing changes, will have nothing to offer the private sector in 6-7 years.