

Kulsh
not.

Asker

Shanker
I.

SCIENCE AND GOVERNMENT: POLITICAL CHOICES
FOR THE FUTURE

1. Thanks. Pleasure to be once again among scientists at Oxford.
2. A seminar not a lecture. So will be brief. Want to hear your views.
3. Events this week have shown how deeply science is involved in politics. Science may feel it has suffered a setback. But we have only reduced an increase. Reduction is small compared with half a billion pound science budget, and £4½ b. total Government expenditure on R&D this year. Can be no doubt about this Government's commitment to science.
4. This week has also shown that science, like politics, is about choices. We cannot do everything we want. So we have to establish priorities. No use allocating all your money only to find that you have nothing left for your favourite project.

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Prob Answer - choices of political choices
/5.

5. Government funding only part of the picture. Industry, too, makes choices - often better ones.

$\frac{1}{3}$ Govt R & D carried out in industry

6. What are the Government's choices?

(i) Using science to create wealth:

- Getting ahead of international competition
- Encouraging the entrepreneur
- Restoring profitability
- Thinking more commercially about publicly-funded R&D
- Freeing private industry to make its own choices

(ii) Applying science in support of political objectives

- Defence
- Health
- Pollution control
- Food

(iii) Continued strength for fundamental research. The pursuit of excellence.

SERC.
Lab. Sc. - 140-

7. Always remember that you cannot have (ii) and (iii) if you neglect (i).

8. Ec. performance in
last 20 years - not good
compared with industrial
competitors - but know of
no evidence that failure to
spend enough on sc. research
was responsible. Can see plenty of
evidence that failure to apply
the results of sc. research was a
factor.

9. This is the challenge
of 3bn on Universities - not
enough of the required
scientific skills.

5 DECEMBER CHANGES

	85/6	86/7	87/8
<u>Autumn Statement</u> Increases:			
Science budget	+14	+14	+14
Univ. eqpt.	+10	+10	+10
<u>Adjusted</u> Increases :			
Science budget	+11	[+8]	[+8]
Univ. eqpt.	+4	+7	+7

EXPENDITURE BY RESEARCH COUNCILS - CASH

	79/80	80/1	81/2	82/3	83/4	84/5	85/6	£m	
Science budget	315	378	435	463	500	530	561	575	589
Other	78	96	93	97	95	102	105	108	113
TOTAL	393	474	528	560	595	632	666	683	702

EXPENDITURE BY RESEARCH COUNCILS - CONSTANT 83/4 PRICES

	79/80	80/1	81/2	82/3	83/4	84/5	85/6
Science budget	466	481	489	487	500	506	514
Other	121	125	104	102	95	98	95
TOTAL	587	606	593	589	595	604	609