

The sixth and last point which I wish to make--and in a sense it returns to the theme which I started with -- is the need for a much greater public awareness of the issues involved and strengthened consultations between the government and the private sector. Many of my colleagues have been engaged in extensive consultations with business and labour on the economic problems confronting us. The government has as well been undertaking a review of Canadian trade policy so as to ensure its continuing relevancy in the 1980's. A lot of preliminary work has now been completed and we have as well been consulting with the private sector.

To date meetings with a variety of interests including business, labour, provinces, consultants and academics have been held to gain a fuller appreciation of the concerns, sensitivities and priorities of people outside of Ottawa. These meetings have proven very constructive and the consultations are continuing.

I cannot emphasize too much the importance of this process. An institute like yours can make an important contribution because of the understanding you have of the international dimensions and realities in which we must operate. There is a tremendous role for you to play in helping to bridge the gap between that international environment and Canadian domestic realities and preoccupations to ensure that our responses to a changing global competitive environment are adequate and timely.

There is no doubt in my mind that Canada has the strength and resiliency to successfully confront this new and difficult period. I look forward to working with you in the future as we face this challenge.