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which made it that much more difficult for them to sell competitive products on world markets.

Madam Speaker, we have every reason to say that the Canadian industrial sector should get directly involved because, as I pointed out earlier in my remarks, only 3 per cent of Canadian companies are doing research.

I think that more companies should do their share. I would suggest that the hon. member is wrong when he claims that our government has failed to implement measures designed to help companies get involved. I can only repeat what I said on the Friday ten days ago when we were debating another opposition motion, that no other government has done so much to bring prosperity to Canadians. This is not necessarily expressed in dollars and cents, but we did establish new guidelines and new measures to make Canadians change their approach. Perhaps I should go over them briefly since the hon. member was not there at the time. I will start with the policy on science and technology we put in place to ensure that throughout Canada, students in every province are trained to meet the needs of industry and have adequate training to meet the needs. Under that policy—as you know, there were differences in Canada and some provinces were much more aware of the need for adequate training—under that policy, this is what we have asked from each province.

We also ensured industry awareness. We organized that famous Conference on Innovation that was held in Toronto in 1988, if I remember correctly, where industry was asked to increase productivity. We also urged them to enhance their products, and asked them how high technology firms could be encouraged.

Madam Speaker, we then introduced the Strategic Technologies Program, to which a number of my colleagues referred in their speeches. Under that important program we identified the areas where Canada could be a leader, even internationally. As there already was good expertise in the area of information techniques, information technologies were identified. Then there is bio-technology. We also mentioned state-of-the-art industrial materials.

As far as helping universities is concerned, we put forward the matching funding program because it also allows industries to use that fantastic resource, research-

ers working in universities while training students. The effect of this is to train an increasing number of young engineers and researchers who really meet the needs of industry. At the same time, it enables industries to look at what is going on in our universities and realize how important that expertise is. Of course we also encourage industry to use the services of industrial research centres, Canadian research centres. We introduce the Canada Scholarship Program to which a number of my colleagues referred, because our goal is to have by 2000 all the researchers needed to meet Canadian needs.

Therefore, that scholarship program that recognizes our best students in Canada, Madam Speaker, will allow us to have the best minds, people in a position to meet our needs.

We also introduced the network of centres of excellence in which from now on researchers no longer working in isolation in their respective labs. We must not forget that there used to be duplication of the research effort. Now, there is networking. Scientists work together; they immediately share the results of their research. Giant strides will be made, and those centres of excellence are absolutely fantastic for our country because we will be at the forefront in the fields that have been identified.

I would like to tell my honorable colleague that this government is providing its continued support and encouraging major projects. I could mention, for instance, the RADARSAT Program which has for a side effect to allow high technology small businesses to emerge, Madam Speaker.

I think very few governments have put in place so many measures. It may not be obvious at this time, but I know that in the long run we will see deep changes occur in Canada and that, eventually, the industry will certainly be happy with what the government has done.

• (1720)

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Resuming debate. The hon. member for Saint-Laurent—Cartierville.

Mrs. Shirley Maheu (Saint-Laurent—Cartierville): Madam Speaker, "The National Research Council intends to restrict its work on basic research during the next few years, reducing permanent staff and handing