

pany has also acquired access to the resources necessary to finance future growth. Another benefit resulting from privatization is the emergence of a greater willingness to embark upon new projects that will expand the company's abilities to meet the needs of the aerospace market.

The Northern Transportation Company Limited is giving its new owners a commercial stake in the future of the Northwest Territories, and a means to participate in economic diversification. I could go on and on, Mr. Speaker, with success after success. Now it is time to allow two more firms their opportunity to grow and to prosper.

Let me turn to the future of the two Crown corporations that are the subject of this legislation, Nordion and Theratronics.

Nordion is a leading global supplier of industrial sterilization systems and medical diagnostic products for the radiation processing and nuclear medicine markets. It exports these products to over 100 countries around the world. In fact, over 90 per cent of its sales last year were to export markets. The company has been in business since 1946. It functioned as a division of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, called the Radiochemical Company, until last fall when it was transferred to the Canadian Development Investment Corporation in anticipation of privatization. This is a world-class company.

Nordion supplies over half the world's gamma radiation processing equipment, and 70 per cent of the world's Cobalt-60. The major application of this equipment is the sterilization of medical and consumer products, needles, sutures, bandages and rubber gloves. Nordion also produces a range of smaller research and clinical irradiators for applications such as irradiating blood, hardening electronic components and undertaking medical research.

In addition to these products, Nordion manufactures about two-thirds of the world's supply of bulk reactor produced and cyclotron produced isotopes for nuclear medicine applications. Its most recent development is an ultra pure iodine 123 which is creating new markets world wide because of its high purity.

Nordion and Theratronics

The strength of this company's technological and marketing abilities was recognized in 1987 when Nordion won both the Canada Award for Business Excellence in Innovation and the Canada Export Award.

Most of Nordion's 387 employees are based in Kanata, with the exception of a small group working at the TRIUMF facility in British Columbia and another group at the Canadian Irradiation Centre at Ville de Laval, Quebec.

Theratronics is also a former division of AECL, the Medical Products Division. It was incorporated last fall and transferred to CDIC at the same time as Nordion.

Theratronics produces and markets two main groups of products for radiotherapy: cobalt therapy machines and computerized planning systems for radiation therapy. These are major capital purchases by clinics and hospitals for planning and delivering radiation treatment to cancerous tumors.

As with Nordion, Theratronics is very much an export oriented company deriving over 90 per cent of its \$41 million annual sales from the United States and overseas. However, Theratronics operates in a considerably more mature market than does Nordion though there is increasing market potential for its products in developing countries.

Currently, the company has over 329 personnel—

Ms. Coppins: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I think there is a fairly long-standing practice which is set out in the Standing Orders to the effect that we do not read directly from a text. This is a Minister with much experience who has the floor. Certainly, this is a practice which tends to be waived for new Members. However, if this Member who has so much experience has the document, then why does he not just table it and save us the pain of having to listen to him?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Minister may continue.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for her interjection. I needed a drink of water.

As with Nordion, Theratronics, as I say, is very much export oriented in deriving over 90 per cent of its \$41 million in sales from the United States and overseas.