

Private Members' Business

listening to me but he ought to seek more information. Supporting labour unions is fine, but so is promoting productivity.

I am pleased when people talk about car manufacturers because I happen to live next door to Sainte-Thérèse, as you know, and Windsor is not the only place where people can make cars. I listened to the NDP Member brag about talking to the labour unions and helping them, yet, Mr. Speaker, we know that their own candidate in Chambly, listen to this, it may be worth your while—

His own candidate in Chambly—and we know that the NDP is pro-union—named the Lada “car of the year” when he was with the APA, the Automobile Protection Association. Think of it: the Lada as car of the year! You should be ashamed to say that you represent the unions, because Lada is a Russian car made with Italian parts and as a driver I can tell you that there was no worse piece of junk!

Anyway, if members of the New Democratic Party encourage such things, they really have a nerve to talk about it in the House. I know about it because I was in the car business and close to the candidate who is running in Chambly. You always have to look at yourself in the mirror.

He then talked about the problem of the fisheries and he probably does not even know the real problem with the fisheries because I just spoke with the minister and it seems that it is not quite as he said.

He talked about Sainte-Thérèse. Certainly the government is proud that it can say today in the House that we supported the auto industry, whether in Sainte-Thérèse or in Bromont. We saved Sainte-Thérèse and with it, over 3,000 jobs. So I think that the government has fulfilled its responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the NDP often boasts of being more Catholic than the Pope, but sometimes I have serious doubts when they encourage sales of Ladas, which are not even made here. You could buy one for \$6,000 and two weeks later, if you wanted to return it, it was worth only \$400. I have serious questions. The candidate running in Chambly did that. The hon. member—the candidate in Chambly. He is not a member of Parliament and I hope he never will be. In any case, that is what you are doing, and it must be hard to convince people you are pro-union, when you urge people to buy

a car made in Russia that was a complete disaster. So let's be realistic!

Mr. Speaker, we are trying to improve our competitive position internationally by taking a specific approach that consists in: defending the needs of industry, as we have done, to ensure it is not overlooked when setting essential, macro-economic policies; conducting joint initiatives with industry to help it improve product quality and increase market share within a reasonable length of time, as we did with General Motors in Sainte-Thérèse; ensuring that government aid is compatible with our international obligations and treaties; providing increased aid and services for industry to promote development and dissemination of strategic technologies, market development and other innovation-oriented activities; providing less financial assistance for manufacturing facilities and more for research and development and technological development—as the hon. member said earlier, we need people with better training for certain industries.

These objectives and the focus of ISTC were established following close consultations in early 1988 with the provinces and representatives of national organizations as well as with people from the business, scientific and academic communities. These groups generally supported the mandate and direction of ISTC and helped us determine which initiatives should be a priority.

One of ISTC's major new initiatives has been to promote the development of strategic technologies that are essential to enhancing the competitive position of a wide range of industries, and I am referring to advanced industrial materials, biotechnology and information technology.

Today, the focus is on three main objectives: to support the creation of research and development alliances between business and universities in order to develop and disseminate new technologies; to support the creation of alliances focussing on technology applications in order to promote risk-sharing in connection with research and development projects and certain feasibility studies; and to promote technology management in a joint effort by ISTC, industry and universities.

Under the Technology Outreach Program, we are trying to improve productivity and competitiveness, especially in small businesses, by accelerating the acquisition,