

Adjournment Debate

In that context, I would stress that during the 1970-71 period we bought only \$100 million's worth in certain areas, while that figure rose to \$230 million in 1973-74, and this year we expect to reach the \$300 million level, which undoubtedly is an improvement.

Others have also buying power, and that waged by the provinces is enormous. With my colleagues from Western provinces and those from the Atlantic provinces I tried to develop a purchasing strategy for a much closer co-operation between the provincial and federal levels of government.

Fortunately, such action is bringing results. A joint federal-provincial exhibition is scheduled for next February in Manitoba, to tell businessmen there how to do business with provincial or federal governments.

On December 6 of this year, I am going to Saskatchewan to explore the possibilities of holding a similar exhibition there, to better inform businessmen in the province on the sales opportunities offered by both provincial and federal governments.

In the Atlantic provinces, I hope we may develop a similar formula for co-operation, in order that information

be made available to businessmen. We supply data through various publications and programs. But, over and above that, I believe if results are not forthcoming, the government should, and I will most certainly try to send officials on the field in order to reach local businessmen.

They show them how to do business with us, what the future opportunities to do business with us are and how they can develop their own company to make it easier for us to buy from them.

It is therefore in that spirit that I would certainly like to decentralize our purchasing in order to make sure that each area of Canada feels really integrated and that opportunities to do business with the federal government are equal for all. It is also in that spirit that, in my opinion, the remarks of the hon. member will most certainly be welcomed favourably.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at eleven o'clock.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.27 p.m.