essential. This Government's priority is to put Canada and Canadians among the world players in the technological and scientific changes sweeping the world economy.

[*Translation*]

To achieve this, we must forge and maintain new alliances with the provinces, with engineers, companies and unions in order to attain new peaks in the areas of education, technology, development and innovation.

[*English*]

I am confident that we are building on that proud legacy with the creation of the Canadian Space Agency. With the Canadian Space Agency, we set a course for the future that will allow Canada to be a key player in a world economy based on science and technology.

We also set a course for the future in which Canada contributes its efforts, its energy, and its intellectual resources to humanity's age old quest for understanding of the universe. With the Canadian Space Agency we have taken one more firm step into an exciting future that I hope will interest many young men and women of Canada, many of our young students, to enter into the fields of science and technology and participate in not only this space program but also the general science and technology program for all Canada. We have an exciting future. The Canadian Space Agency will play its part in that future.

[*Translation*]

Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity this morning to rise in the House and speak to the creation of the Canadian Space Agency and to discuss Canadian space programs and projects.

[*English*]

Every one of us in our youth have shared the fascination with space. I well remember in my own youth the fascination I had for everything I could find and read from that day in October, 1957 when we learned that the Soviet Union had launched a satellite into orbit. It is one of those days, as was the day nearly 20 years ago when man for the first time walked on the moon, that all of us remember where we were and what we were doing when we first heard the news.

Canada as a nation has demonstrated unusual ability in the field of space. I had the pleasure very recently of visiting the Dominion Observatory in Victoria, a place that when it was built in 1916 made Canada the nation in the world with the largest telescope at that time. When one thinks of it, that is an amazing thing.

In 1916 Canada was barely 50 years old. There at the farthest extremity of Canada, in Victoria, using anything but high technology—in fact using mules to haul these heavy instruments to the top of a hill—Canada became the proud possessor of this magnificent facility which still operates today and where we can still examine and observe the universe.

The Minister, in his remarks, mentioned the launch of Alouette I in 1962. Indeed Canada, by virtue of its geography and its demography, is a country that must rely on space technology. Satellite communications are an essential part of our national infrastructure. Remote sensing is crucial to the management of our natural resources. Weather satellites have become indispensable to us.

Indeed, the industrial benefits of Canada's space program have been noteworthy, an example in fact for other areas in which Canada lags behind in advanced technology.

We now employ about 3,500 people in the space sector. In 1986 we had $350 million in sales of which about 70 per cent was into the export market. These are industries which by and large are Canadian owned and which add significant value in Canada to the production of goods that are exported. This is a model for what we need to create in many other industries and sectors in Canada.

• (1210)

In effect, space is a source of pride in an otherwise rather dismal scene in Canada as far as science and technology is concerned. I have addressed this House before on my concerns about Canada's science, engineering, and technology performance. They are concerns that cannot be overstated or stated too many times.