

to carry them through. As I see it, a defence contract carries with it a good deal of responsibility -- responsibility to keep costs down, to maintain production schedules, and to meet delivery dates.

The financial inducement to accept this responsibility is, I know, not very great, but surely the returns are immeasurable. Individually, Canadians are making their contribution to Canada's defence. Industry, particularly in a free enterprise country, has an equal stake in this endeavour and the acceptance of defence contracts, even if they are not as lucrative as commercial business, is not too high a price to pay for the maintenance of political and economic freedom.

I think we have reached a point in our defence production programme where it is important that we should take another look at our reasons for undertaking a preparedness effort of this kind. If those reasons were valid a year and a half ago, they are valid today. Nothing has occurred in that time that would suggest we should slow down our efforts to strengthen our economic and military defences. It is hard, I know, to maintain a sense of urgency over a long period. On the other hand, a feeling of complacency in the present situation must be avoided. Any loss of momentum in the defence programme would prevent the completion of the task we have undertaken. None of us can afford to forget at any time that we are confronted by a ruthless ideology that has for its ultimate purpose the destruction, not only for individual freedoms, but also the rights enjoyed by industrial groups under a free enterprise system.

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