

administration of the Program. These measures should pay a solid dividend for the competitiveness of many Canadian industries.

Last June, the government took a vital step in improving the business climate for research and development in Canada. By ensuring that companies benefit from their own innovations, we are encouraging the development of more new products in Canada -- products that will contribute to the better health care of all Canadians -- products that will also provide more and better skilled jobs for Canadian workers. The introduction of Bill C-91 improves the business environment for your sector as well and demonstrates the government's strong commitment to your industry.

Bill C-91 brings Canadian intellectual property practices more in line with those of other industrialized countries, as set out in the GATT Dunkel Text, last December, 1991. The Government of Canada remains committed to early passage of the bill.

As you know, the intellectual property chapter in the NAFTA is derived from the Dunkel text. Unlike the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, the NAFTA has a comprehensive chapter on intellectual property. This chapter will provide standards in the areas of patents, apply comprehensive rules for enforcing intellectual property rights and give all industrial sectors similar patent protection. It will also put Canadian research on an equal footing with U.S. research when applying for U.S. patents.

The proposals in C-91 have already attracted significant new investments in this industry. I am delighted to say that, since January of this year, pharmaceutical companies have announced investments of nearly \$500 million in Canada for the period 1992 to 1996. Fully \$325 million in investments has been announced by members of your association since C-91 was introduced.

To the representatives of the companies who are here today -- GLAXO, ASTRA, SEARLE, PFIZER, MERCK FROSST, NORDIC MERRILL DOW, UPJOHN, BRISTOL MEYERS SQUIB, SANDOZ, SKB PHARMA and AYERST -- let me say this: you are making a major contribution to Canada's competitiveness and prosperity, and we intend to build on your success.

From the perspective of the Prosperity Initiative, these new investments mean quality jobs for Canadian researchers, medical personnel and other highly trained workers across the full range of industrial activities -- the provision of plants and equipment, research and development carried out in hospitals, research institutes, universities and private-sector laboratories.

I believe that your investments, coupled with Bill C-91, will create the new kind of environment of which I spoke earlier -- one in which all segments of the industry can thrive and grow.