

Private Members' Business

deficit in this area and in many cases a trade deficit in areas where we are major producers of final products using this machinery.

For instance, we import massive amounts of pulp and paper machinery. We import massive amounts of mining machinery, despite the fact that we are producers almost unparalleled in the world in pulp and paper and in the case of many mining products. Yet, we do not produce the machinery here in this country.

I very much hope that the House would eventually be able to support a motion such as mine before us today which says that we should get serious. We should set up task forces of employers, of workers, of communities, of governments to work together to plan ways that we can see to it that we produce the machinery, the other specialized hi-tech imports which can give us the jobs for the future which we need in this country, which our people right across Canada desperately need, and which will be a solution to the economic problems that are so serious from Atlantic Canada right to the west coast of British Columbia. I urge this House to support this kind of motion for our economic future.

• (1720)

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond to the motion of the hon. member for Essex—Windsor and I believe I can offer some useful insight on this subject. I will try to respect my notes because I think my hon. colleague went a little bit outside of his motion.

[*Translation*]

In Canada, industrial development has so far been based mostly on our abundance of natural resources and easy access to markets. However, in today's global economy, our success will depend increasingly on our scientific and technological capabilities and appropriate macro-economic policies.

If we want to maintain our position as one of the great industrial and economic powers, we must improve our industry's competitive position on international markets by integrating our efforts in science and technology. We must consider the future of Canadian industries within the context of world markets and acquire competitive

edge based on the excellence of our products and processes.

In its first term which started in 1984, this government recognized the importance of a competitive industrial economy, whose growth was based on the private sector, when it made a commitment to Canada's economic renewal. To that end, it took a number of macro-economic initiatives. These included tax reform, designed to stimulate consumer spending by reducing taxes on individuals and to increase business confidence by reducing corporate income tax. They included as well adopting a science and technology policy that provided for a substantial increase in public funding to encourage research and development in industry as well as other scientific activities.

The creation of Industry, Science and Technology Canada was another initiative taken by the government in response to growing international competition and the rapid pace of technological change affecting products and manufacturing processes.

Up until now the Canadian economy has adapted remarkably well to the trade liberalization triggered by the series of GATT rounds. Our industries have progressively increased their operations, their specialization and their effectiveness. This government firmly believes that free trade between Canada and the United States will pave the way for Canadian industries to improve their performance and compete not only on the American market but also on world markets.

The first priority of Industry, Science and Technology Canada—and of the government, for that matter—is to make sure that we as Canadians can compete on the international scene. Indeed my colleague referred to that earlier when he spoke about Quebec's shipyards. Mr. Speaker, I simply fail to see how the NDP Members can talk about Quebec's shipyards, for we can always encourage— There is a will to support industries, as my colleague pointed out, but we know they are not always competitive. A good example would be the Hon. Member for LaSalle—Émard (Mr. Martin), a leading businessman. He established his own multinational corporation and seldom misses an opportunity to brag about that in his campaign, but we happen to know that he bought his last seven ships in Brazil. What a way to encourage Quebec! We can also encourage our industry, but when we no longer build ships— My colleague is probably not