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persuasions across Canada, we will indeed see the evolution of tens of thousands of new jobs from one end of the country to the other. I am growing rather tired of this pessimism. I suppose it is the role of the Opposition to be negative and the role of the Government to be positive. I think as Canadians, as honourable Canadians all, we should rise to a higher level of responsibility.

I have been in negotiation with my colleague in British Columbia, the Hon. Patrick McGeer, a former Liberal, concerning a subagreement on science and technology and its important role in creating new jobs and new economic opportunities in the province which I, together with my 18 colleagues on the government side, are proud to represent. On March 1, I signed with Minister McGeer a memorandum of understanding setting out the parameters of our co-operation. I expect shortly to announce a subagreement flowing from the economic and regional development agreement which was announced this afternoon by the Minister.

We in the Progressive Conservative Party believe that it is essential to make our existing industries more internationally competitive, to raise their productivity and to use new technologies, so that they will be able to survive in an increasingly competitive external world. That will not be a sufficient solution to the problem facing this nation, nor will the solution be found in more government programs to hand out money, which some other entity presumably earns and pays to Government, in order to increase the role of the service sector in our economy. If we do not have a strong, productive workforce, we cannot afford to support a strong service sector. The only solution, as I see it, to creating new economic opportunity in Canada, is to apply the emerging technologies in the most progressive way we can, in a climate of entrepreneurialism and in an environment where we encourage young people to rise to the height of their academic and intellectual potential, and then go out and create the new nuclei businesses which will become the new large industries of tomorrow. It will only be through the adding of value to our resources, which we have traditionally harvested, consumed and exported, that we will add new jobs, the permanent jobs which the country needs.

Therefore, I am proud to stand in the House today to indicate that the Government is committed to raising our national investment in research and development in partnership, not by handing out federal dollars in massive increased amounts, with the provinces, the private sector and the municipalities. We are committed to raising our national investment in the application of science and the technological evolution which flows from science to meet new challenges. It is my confident expectation that by 1990, we will indeed see our national level of investment in research and development rise to the level of that of our major competitor nations around the world. It is my confident expectation that we will reach a level of investment of 2 per cent to .5 per cent of Gross National Product, which is characteristic of those other countries which have been so successful in the modern industrial world.

● (1730)

Returning to the British Columbia situation, I am proud to have entered into this memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Science in the Province of British Columbia and to be able to announce under the ERDA agreement an important subagreement in the amount of \$20 million to aid in the strengthening of the already strong technological base in that province. To hear the Leader of the Opposition say that there is no high technology and research activity in British Columbia is merely indicative of the fact that he does not know his own province very well.

In fact, we have had many success stories in British Columbia, not only in the Lower Mainland of Vancouver but in the many communities throughout the province. What we need is to double and triple the activity levels of these companies and the new ones that are yet to come. These are the companies that can create true and lasting employment and the nuclei of new industrial opportunity throughout my province and the other provinces and Territories of Canada.

The thrust of the ERDA agreement which we are so pleased to have finalized today was reflected in a recent speech given in Trail, British Columbia. The next of that speech reads:

There is a new realism that we can't rely solely on our basic resource industries to carry us through the inevitable fluctuations of the international markets where our products must be sold. We have also to broaden and expand the economic base by attracting new job-creating investment, new industry and new types of economic activity, while at the same time work hard to develop new levels of productivity in our resource industries so that they can remain competitive.

The speech went on:

So what we are involved in is a dual process within our partnership for economic renewal. It is designed to encourage new growth and at the same time help our major industries, like forestry and mines, remain highly competitive in international markets.

While my colleagues and I have been accustomed to expressing these sentiments in every corner of Canada and in this very House, it is particularly significant to note that the recent speech from which I quoted was presented a few days ago in British Columbia by W. R. Bennett, the Premier of British Columbia.

I am pleased to be able to say that this partnership agreement which we have struck with a Government of another political persuasion is not unlike the partnership and accord we have struck in the Province of Quebec with a Party of another political persuasion and indeed the partnership that we struck in the Province of Manitoba with the provincial New Democratic Party. I am saying that we can make much greater progress if we work together as a team irrespective of our political differences. I must call upon members of the Opposition to give at least some small measure of credit to the Prime Minister and to the Government for having managed to accomplish what a year ago would have seemed impossible, namely, a new spirit of co-operation, consensus and goodwill between the provinces and the federal Government irrespective of political persuasion.

The motion is in two parts. It decries the lack of economic leadership, but, as I have already indicated, the statistical