

tions and one for which the future generations of Canadians would properly hold us accountable.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is a crucial parliament. It is a time to move on, not to look back. It is a time to seek solutions for the fundamental problems facing the people of Canada, not expedients. It is above all not a time for stop-gap measures. It is a time when the people of Canada are looking to the judgment and the energies of calm men, not to the frantic antics of ambitious men. It is for that reason that I think the perspective and content of the Speech from the Throne are so important at this time.

In my remarks this afternoon, I would like to touch upon that perspective and those measures for which I am responsible. Quite simply, the government's economic objectives are aimed at jobs now and in the future. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner), in his remarks yesterday, has already referred to the special measures which the government has taken to alleviate the very special seasonal problems that we, as Canadians, have always had to contend with, and probably will have to contend with for many years to come—those caused by the very nature of Canada, the harshness of our winters, the enormous influence of the seasons on many of our enterprises, the vastness of our land and the isolation of many of our communities. Our situation in Canada is different. It is different from the United States and it is different from Europe or Japan, with their population densities, their large numbers of large cities close together, and the greater mobility of the working man and woman in those large cities and between those large cities.

I do not intend to recite all the measures the Minister of Finance has already dealt with in respect of the special programs. The point I should like to underline today is the future perspective. My colleague, the Minister of Finance, has already indicated on a number of occasions the programs of support. I think the right word is "support"—programs to support the ongoing health and competitiveness of the private sector, the major creator of new jobs for Canadians. I should like to emphasize three aspects of the government's program to strengthen and build a healthy, growing, job-creating industrial base for Canada. The first area is exports and access to markets. There are our forthcoming negotiations on a multilateral basis under GATT which we expect to get underway this year. Second, our bilateral negotiations will continue with the EEC, with Japan and with our great trading partner to the south. Then, third there will be amendments to the Export Development Act to increase the capital of the Export Development Corporation and to raise the financial ceilings for lending and for guaranteed export insurance in foreign operations.

The second set of measures I should like to deal with are designed to assist small business. I want to discuss and elaborate on these, and particularly the new initiatives to strengthen management and consulting services and to improve the access of small business to financial facilities to finance the growth of small business.

The third section of my remarks will deal with the question of foreign control and ownership measures mentioned in the Speech from the Throne to ensure further control by Canadians over their economy by the screening of foreign takeovers of Canadian owned business; mea-

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asures respecting the transfer of technology from abroad and access to it by Canadian entrepreneurs; measures to increase Canadian participation in the ownership and control of resource projects and, in consultation with the provinces, measures dealing with new direct foreign investment and the sale of land to foreigners.

The Speech from the Throne went on to mention that when these and other measures are taken together they will contribute to the development and elaboration of a coherent set of industrial policies for Canada. I want to emphasize that phrase "a coherent set of industrial policies for Canada". There has been a good deal of discussion in the press and in this House about the industrial strategy question. To me, it is a confusing label. I believe it is also a confusing label to most people. I shall indicate to you the reason. I think most people have gained the expectation that all we have to do to solve everything is to produce some sort of all-purpose grandiose government game plan called, "an industrial strategy for Canada". I think this expectation has caused confusion in the business community and among members of the public at large.

A recent article in the *Financial Times* of Canada for November 27 makes this point quite clear. It indicates that it means different things to different people. For instance, it raises all sorts of questions with regard to the definition of an industrial strategy for Canada. For example, it raised these sorts of questions with respect to possible definitions of an industrial strategy for Canada: some sort of an all embracing, once in a lifetime statement of a national economic policy; a blueprint for the development of secondary manufacture; a plan to control foreign ownership; some scheme for government intervention to influence the structure of industry; a manifesto for the allocation of industrial resources by government; a policy for encouraging industrial research and development; a system of industrial priorities; and a policy for the development of energy resources. All these particular descriptions have been used at one time or another by one speaker or another to indicate what he means by "an industrial strategy for Canada". I would prefer a somewhat different way of designating our evolving set of industrial policies.

• (1600)

This is not to suggest in any way that the government does not intend to continue and accelerate its work to plan ahead for the future of the Canadian economy and the Canadian business community. I am simply being a little more realistic when I talk about the government's so-called industrial strategy as being directed more toward the development and elaboration of a coherent set of industrial policies for Canada rather than the almost impossible task of producing a master plan.

When talking on this subject, my predecessor, the Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin, spoke about:

—the need for an ensemble of co-ordinated objectives and instruments, i.e., policies, programs and institutions.

This ensemble or set of industrial policies is an evolving and continuing process. It is a process which is going to be flexible enough to meet changing domestic situations and changing international situations. It is important that