

Supply

include SBC Case Ltd., a producer of transportation cases and containers. Those are terrible devices. Another is SciTech, scientific analysis. Should we not be allowed to develop scientific analysis in this country?

There is SED Systems, computer high tech systems design, purely a destructive industry.

What about International Road Dynamics, producers of road signs? This is evil. How will we fight a war if we do not know which back lane to turn down?

The Saskatchewan Department of Trade and Investment assists in attracting defence contracts to Saskatchewan, including the attraction of high tech and other related industries. Instruments of death indeed.

I would not want anyone to think that the Department ceased to take any interest in ARMX once it turned it over to the private sector. The Department does not manage the operation of ARMX, but it does assist Baxter Publications in some limited ways. For example, it encourages military personnel to attend. It will maintain a booth, as the Minister referred to earlier, and I understand that the booth is provided free. Among other things, businessmen can find out how to bid for government contracts.

It also will assist in validating seminar subjects and by providing the keynote seminar address each day.

The Department of National Defence is more convinced now than it ever has been that there is a significant purpose to be served by ARMX in assisting the Canadian Forces to acquire the most appropriate, affordable technology required to enhance future training efficiency and increase the cost effectiveness of training. For a Department that has just contributed \$2.74 billion to deficit reduction in the coming five years, anything that can increase cost effectiveness is nothing short of a Godsend. I think it is to the credit of the Department of National Defence that years before these cuts, it was already sponsoring ways, such as ARMX, of ensuring that each taxpayer's dollar was producing the most effective results possible.

How does ARMX contribute to cost effectiveness? It does so by offering to display modern military equipment and training technology devices; by providing Canadian

and international industries with an opportunity to discuss equipment and training requirements in an informal environment; and by fostering industry to industry relationships between Canadian and international sources of training devices and equipment, thus providing a forum for potential investment and co-operation with Canadian industry.

Most important, I want to stress that enhancing future training efficiency through trade shows like it, ARMX contributes to developing our defence industrial base. I need not tell you, Mr. Speaker, nor Members of the House, how vital the defence industrial base is to Canada and indeed all western democracies and the world as a whole. What would we do in the face of aggression without an industrial capacity responsive to operational military requirements?

This is no longer 1939 or 1940. In 1989, as the military put it, if war breaks out you go as you are. There is no time to create an industry. More specifically industrial preparedness provides us with an assured source of essential defence materiel, services and technical capability. It also provides a strategic source of essential defence materiel to meet our defence needs under peacetime, crisis and mobilization conditions.

I could go on and on, but I feel I must now conclude. If I may, I want to emphasize and reiterate, because it will never be said often enough, that without ARMX we would not have this very unique opportunity to have industry and government meet informally to discuss one of the most important priorities any country has. That is to say, to become aware of the newest technologies known to man in our quest to maintain not only Canadian sovereignty but peace and security.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hon. Member for his presentation this afternoon. It was very thoughtful and informative.

I have been listening with great interest both to the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party. It is my opinion that neither Party has its act together and cannot decide whether or not they are in favour of this particular show. We heard from the Member for Papineau—St. Michel (Mr. Ouellet) and the Member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Milliken). One was opposed to it and