

Supply

ties and the private sector in order to compete at the international level.

It is made up of Canadians who have distinguished themselves in the business, university and labour sectors among others.

It has made many recommendations to the Prime Minister on how best to exploit science and technology in Canada. A good number of its suggestions have been followed. For instance, following an intervention by the Board; the government established the Canada Scholarship Program which gives up to \$80 million to the best students to encourage them to pursue their studies in natural science, engineering and related fields.

As a woman, I am proud to point out that almost half of the 3,400 young people who received scholarships this year were women. It is time for everybody to recognize the enormous potential of women in scientific studies. The thousands of scholarship recipients for the current school year are in addition to the 1,600 already in the program. Its success is encouraging but it is not the only valid program.

Another recommendation from the National Science Advisory Board gave good results, Madam Speaker. The Board thought of launching a \$10 million public awareness campaign to explain to the public in general the latest scientific and technological achievements. The aim of such a campaign is to show how science affects the life of Canadians, be it their personal life, their academic life or their professional life.

Many Canadians had already come to realize the growing importance of science and its many applications during the sometimes stormy debate that has taken place before the Free Trade Agreement was ratified. Considering Canada is dwarfed by the scale of research and technology transfers in the United States, there was no need to be a specialist to understand that we had every advantage to have closer ties with our neighbours to the South and benefit from their expertise.

Madam Speaker, that is how many of our companies have formed new types of partnership with the Americans.

The government for its part has taken another step to help us better position ourselves on the world markets of today by adopting the "Horizon: World" Strategy. This combines market development with technological growth and is based on the opportunities provided by the United States, the Pacific Rim and the European countries that will form an economic unit in 1992. The government is first of all trying to increase our exports and encourage investments and partnerships, but on an even larger scale. This strategy thus gives us a rational way to stimulate economic activity and thereby create jobs.

For that, the department is counting on the co-operation of External Affairs and Investment Canada to extend its commercial reach internationally and to promote its investments abroad.

As you see, Madam Speaker, the opposition's motion which deals exclusively with research and development in Canada is quite lacking in perspective. We simply cannot spew out some figures taken out of context to show what we have done in science and technology and hope to convince whoever wants to listen to me that we have done a wonderful job.

Madam Speaker, research and development is only one element of the ambitious and complex mosaic that is the Department of Industry, Science and Technology.

To concentrate on research and development alone would be to ignore the government's innovative efforts with respect to technology transfers and promoting this type of activity in Canada's industrial community. With a policy that includes technology centres that manage major federal laboratories and the Technology Outreach Program, the government wishes to ensure that the assistance it gives to industry is responsive to the needs of its customers. It also wants to increase the effectiveness of these technology centres and attract greater participation by industry.

However, we must not overlook the equally crucial component of human resources. It is the human dimension that is part and parcel of some very exciting but also very practical questions, such as acquiring advanced technology. If Canada is unable to train a labour force that is versatile and capable of responding to the needs of technology, science and engineering, our scientific structure will collapse because it does not have a sufficiently sound foundation.