

### Supply

know-how into opportunities which will ensure continuing economic prosperity for all Canadians.

I do not diminish the importance of the other four elements of the NDP motion, but in the case of all five elements there is a lack of specificity, to use a complicated word. There is nothing by way of proposals which the Minister of Finance could incorporate in his Budget within two weeks' time. This belies a problem within the New Democratic Party. It was indicated by the ambivalence of the Hon. Member for Vancouver East when she could not decide whether or not she really was a Luddite and whether or not we Canadians should hold back, on technology as if we have any choice. We have no choice as Canadians. We have to recognize that technology and a much enhanced national commitment to research and development are our only hope if we are intent on putting those 1.5 million-plus Canadians back to work; on creating meaningful and challenging futures for our young, well-educated university and high school graduates in the years ahead.

I was disappointed that there was no reference in the motion to a commitment by the NDP to research and development. I understand the Hon. Member for Vancouver East referred to this subject. However, in terms of a recognition that the Government opposite has a disastrous record of support for research and development, particularly through the seventies, I am astonished that the NDP did not have more to say than that it would increase Canada's level of spending to 2.0 per cent of our Gross National Product.

I would like to spend more time dealing with the fifth point, but first let me point out that, in looking at all five of the NDP recommendations, it is interesting to note the close relationship or near identity of words and phrases to various pronouncements which have been made by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Mulroney). I would like to begin by referring to an extract from the book of the Hon. Member for Central Nova entitled *Where I Stand*. This relates to the fifth recommendation to "encourage technological changes that promote new products, industries and jobs". The Leader of the Opposition said:

There will be no solid economic recovery on which a soundly conceived national industrial strategy can be based until such time as we accept the proposition that the production of quality goods and services at internationally competitive prices is Canada's unquestioned principal challenge. Management, labour and government must unite to meet this overriding national concern.

This was published over a year ago and in fact appeared in many of my Leader's speeches over the past three years.

Referring to the first proposal in the NDP motion which relates to "employee consultation in the introduction of technological change", I would also like to refer to my Leader's book wherein he stated:

Our objective is nothing less than the total elimination of the adversary relationship in the labour-management process.

In referring to the time when he was President of the Iron Ore Company. He continued:

We discovered that in the 1980s no one works for you any more. He either works with you or he does not work at all. We discovered that equipment does not make any money. The people who operate equipment do.

Then he went on to state:

We did, however, resolve to make every honourable human effort with our union leaders and our thousands of employees in an attempt to introduce a new degree of civility, of understanding, of genuine fraternity into our relations, which we believed would ultimately benefit all associated with the company.

There are many quotations of that sort which have been made by the Leader of the Opposition and others in this Party. Indeed, the nature of the appeal contained in the first recommendation of the NDP is that we improve consultation between labour and the private sector, with government playing a part in it.

● (1240)

Over two years ago the Hon. Member for Central Nova called for the establishment of a national tripartite commission on productivity to improve this dialogue. It was very interesting that the Government finally woke up to realizing the importance of such an institution a year ago. The Minister of Finance began the first steps of creating such an institution, with the undertakings in his Budget. They have now evolved into a joint undertaking between the CLC and other labour unions, together with the private sector, through the National Council on Business Issues. Interestingly enough, these two groups together have recommended that the federal Government should keep its nose out of this institution because it would merely complicate very sensitive and important discussions which must occur.

In connection with items two and three, dealing with flexible work arrangements to minimize job losses and easing the impact on employees due to technological shake-up and company shutdowns, I refer Hon. Members to correspondence that was presented first to Members of this House after a detailed dialogue with the employees of the Iron Ore Company. This was in November, 1982 when it became necessary, because of the serious international situation with regard to mineral sales, to close down an old and rapidly depleting resource, an iron ore mine at Schefferville, Quebec.

I will not go through the details, but for those who might be interested this initiative taken by the Iron Ore Company under the leadership of the now Leader of the Opposition represented the first and most generous settlement that Canadian industry had extended to its employees in memorable history. For example, employees who had worked throughout the preceding year would receive two weeks wages per year of service. This was the most generous severance allowance ever granted to employees of a Canadian corporation. All employees were urged to continue living in company-owned housing until the conclusion of the school year a year and a half hence. Assistance was extended in many categories by way of free long distance telephone and communication services, assistance in preparing curriculum vitae and resumé's, assistance in the search for alternate employment, secretarial service and the organization of early retirement courses for the older eligible employees.