

*Economic Development*

government is an active player in industrial development; to strengthen our research and technology capacity; to encourage independent Canadian-owned enterprise; and to expand Canadian control of our economy and at the same time increase the benefits to Canadians from the foreign investment that is already here.

I am presenting to cabinet very shortly a proposal for implementing these principles and for giving Canada a far more comprehensive and integrated framework for industrial development policy than we have had in the past. The elements of this policy framework will fulfil the commitments made by the Prime Minister during the election campaign and by this government in the throne speech. The approach which I believe in and which promises to deliver the greatest benefits to Canadian industry, workers and the economy is one which recognizes for government—in co-operation and in consultation with the private sector—an active involvement in the economy and in identifying and developing the strengths of this great country.

For example, through a made-in-Canada price for oil, we will make our energy resources more of an asset than ever before. We have rejected the international cartel price for oil and want to negotiate a fair price, a Canadian price which will ensure companies in every region of Canada a competitive edge in international trade. We want to ensure as well that the large scale energy and other projects which will be undertaken during the 1980s provide Canadian companies with a market for their goods and services—for instance, that the steel is sourced in Canada and that available Canadian workers and expertise are fully used. In this regard I want to say that the northern pipeline is a project with the potential to bring great industrial benefits to Canada. I believe that Canada should have the benefits of the pre-build and of the entire pipeline and a lot more besides.

Another of the methods which we will use will be to target federal government procurement more toward Canadian companies so that taxpayers' money can make a direct contribution towards creating industrial jobs, stimulating international competitiveness for our industries and spurring growth. Each year, the federal government spends billions of dollars on goods and services. We are making new and substantial efforts to increase the number and value of these government purchases that come from companies that operate in Canada and employ Canadians. This policy is already under way and will shortly be expanded and strengthened.

*[Translation]*

Mr. Speaker, one of the ways in which we intend to participate in the development of our economy is by sparing no effort to increase our penetration of foreign markets. My department is in the process of setting up two new agencies which will allow us to expand considerably our participation in international trade; on the one hand, we will have an export development council composed of members from the private sector whose role it will be to make recommendations concerning our export trade policies. And it is my colleague the Minister of

State for Trade (Mr. Lumley) who is setting up this important initiative.

On the other hand, Mr. Speaker, we will have a national trading corporation which will help our exporters. This concerns large as well as small and medium-size businesses.

*[English]*

I want to confirm that one of the ways this government intends to take a very active participation in the development of our economy is through trade promotion. We are in the process, through the efforts of the Minister of State for Trade and Minister of State for Small Businesses (Mr. Lapointe), of developing the concept of a national trading company to improve the ability of Canadian industry to compete abroad. We are also actively developing more effective export financing programs.

Our economic development strategy will also emphasize support and encouragement of more advanced technology in Canada. We will promote and encourage our greatest resource—the well-trained, highly-educated and talented labour force in Canada.

Throughout the country, Mr. Speaker, high technology is recognized as the vital key to contemporary national economic growth and prosperity. That is why the throne speech reaffirmed the government's commitment to increase Canada's over-all expenditures on research and development to 1.5 per cent of the value of the gross national product. We will encourage the growth of high technology, not only in the advanced technology sectors, but also in those subsectors of the mature industries where there is substantial potential for growth.

Also, this government is committed to ensuring that foreign investment, to the extent we require it, adds to our ability to take full advantage of the opportunities that are opening up to us. We will both promote the development of strong Canadian-owned businesses and ensure that foreign-owned companies operate in accordance with Canadian economic goals. We will encourage small and large Canadian businesses to grow and become more competitive and ensure there is a maximum of significant benefits from the foreign-owned companies.

It is my intention to introduce to Parliament on behalf of the government, after Parliament resumes in the fall, a package of measures designed to strengthen Canadian participation in the economy and improve the performance of the foreign-controlled firms in that economy. These measures are, first, that FIRA be required to publish, in advance of a decision to allow or disallow, notice of larger acquisition proposals subject to review under the act. The present act precludes the government from making any information public until a decision is announced. This has often been seen to work against the national interest because there are instances where Canadians, if they were aware that a business was for sale, would be willing and able to make a bid which might be better all round for Canada than the foreign bid.

Second, the bill would provide that financial assistance be provided to Canadians seeking either to compete against bids