

Private Members' Business

• (1730)

In my riding of Saanich—Gulf Island those high-tech environmental technology firms are creating high-tech, high paying jobs, not the Mac jobs that this government is so proud of having created, not the \$5 an hour jobs, but real jobs that can support real families, that can support real communities, that add to our tax base, that add to the wealth in our society, that are able to pay for higher education so we can actually have a future for our children and for our country.

What we also have incorporated in my colleague's motion is that there has to be more support for Buy Canada programs, and there has to be.

At the meeting of the Institute of Ocean Sciences last Thursday I was shown a particular computer modelling system and this modelling system was beautiful to behold. It had the map of Vancouver Island on the computer screen and the capability of that facility, as the promotional material showed, is not a computer mapping tool or geographic information system but it is the kind of management tool for making decisions.

It takes the map of Vancouver Island and if I were to ask what if an oil spill happened on Galiano Island, or in the Gulf of Georgia, that computer is able to look at the tides, the wind conditions, all of the situations which would determine where the oil is going to end up. Then our federal resources, the Canadian Coast Guard, the province of British Columbia, would know where to put their resources to clean it up.

This is the kind of technology that is available in Canada that we should be buying, that we should be protecting, creating jobs in our own community. Right now that is not happening and it is because of the sort of wrong-headed approach that the market is the salvation for all things. This government has forsaken those people who have created, who have had the initiative to go out and risk a lot of capital in developing these high tech tools for decision making.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the members of this House to support my colleague's motion, to show some vision for the 1990s and into the next century. We have the capability in Canada to provide the environmental technologies that will benefit not only our own communities, not only our own country, but the world.

I think we have a responsibility to be able to share that with the world.

Please vote yes on this initiative.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Yvon Côté (Richmond—Wolfe): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to contribute in this debate on a very important issue raised by the hon. member for Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt.

I easily understand why my colleague would move this motion, which I agree is in itself quite good, but I have serious questions on its relevance.

Let me read the motion, Mr. Speaker, and then I will comment.

That . . . the government should consider the advisability of developing a healthy small business sector—

I will read the remainder later on.

If my colleague wants to develop a healthy small business sector, it seems to me that this is not a good time to present such a motion because, as far as I know, economic, fiscal and tax policies announced in different budgets, including the last one, did foster through special initiatives the development of businesses so that they may become a healthy sector. We should not forget that small businesses represent two thirds of our economy.

The first part of the motion leaves me unsatisfied, because the development of a healthy small business sector is already well under way.

I go back to the motion:

—developing a healthy small-business sector in Canada by targeting more federal contracts to the small-business sector—

I will get back to the rest.

A moment ago, my colleague for Jonquière reminded us of some very interesting statistics. If we want to grant federal government contracts in larger numbers, we have to know what the situation is. Let me repeat the statistics recalled by my colleague for Jonquière. Already 90 per cent of the federal contracts are awarded, allocated to the small and medium-sized business sector in Canada. I might also add that through subcontracting from this sector, another 10 per cent of contracts are going to other small businesses. Nearly 90 per cent of those contracts go straight to the small business sector. I realize that we may not have achieved 100 percent, Mr. Speaker, but you have to admit that as currently worded this motion seems to be off the point. For my part I