

Industry, Science and Technology

I reiterate that I think all Hon. Members in this Chamber believe that this is a very serious matter. I have indicated that I would not do this very often, but as I am involved in this as well as other Hon. Members, I do not think it is appropriate for the Chair to entertain any further argument on it. There are other places, and there will be other places today, where the issue can be raised, and I am quite sure Hon. Members will do so.

I hope the Hon. Member will accept that I do not dismiss the matter lightly but I am bound, as you would have me bound, by the rules of this place. I want Hon. Members and the public to understand that.

Mr. Kindy: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There was a question about whether there is unanimous consent in the House to have a debate. I would support that and I wonder whether you could—

Mr. Speaker: This is exactly why we have the rule. The Hon. Member indicates he would give unanimous consent to debate this issue. That may well be, but the appropriate way is for the House Leaders of all three Parties and one of the Members of this House who is not in any of those three Parties to be approached and if there can be agreement, of course, the Chair will co-operate, but it is not appropriate to be debating that as a consequence of an application for an emergency debate. There is another way to do it and I would ask Hon. Members to co-operate in that way.

I recognize full well that the Hon. Member by giving his indication that he would give consent is again responding to a matter which is causing great concern to all Members of this House on both sides, as has been clearly indicated by exchanges in the House over the last number of days.

[Translation]

I wish to inform the House that because of the Minister's statement, Government Orders will be extended today by 19 minutes, as of one o'clock this afternoon.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Harvie Andre (for the Prime Minister) moved that Bill C-3, an Act to establish the Department of

Industry, Science and Technology, to repeal the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee.

He said: Mr. Speaker, the agenda set forward by the Speech from the Throne lists as its first priority the building of a strong economy, fully competitive in world markets. The Speech from the Throne also highlights the environment in which we must achieve that objective: an environment of liberalized trade, requiring outward-looking trade policies; an environment of trading blocs; an environment of world-scale enterprises which have been launched to take maximum advantage of the increasing globalization of economic activity. In short, the Speech from the Throne recognizes that to succeed, Canada's economic effort must be characterized by excellence in its every facet.

We must achieve excellence in our national scientific effort, our research and development performance, and our development and acquisition and application of technology. We must achieve excellence in the innovation and creativity of our business and industrial management, and in the marketing of our goods and services on a world-wide scale. We must strive for excellence in human skills development at all levels of the education system, as well as the shop floor, but there is one over-riding requirement. Not only must we achieve and maintain excellence in these separate endeavours, we must also integrate them into a national effort, shared by the science, technological and business communities in partnership with Government at all levels.

• (1140)

Such an integrated national effort characterizes the thrust of the united Europe we will face in 1992, the Japan of today, the so-called Asian tigers of today and tomorrow. To compete with these world economic powers, and to maximize the opportunities arising out of the Free Trade Agreement with the United States, Canada can afford nothing less than to mount its own integrated national effort. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to point out that as Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, I am responsible for one of the main ways to ensure the success of these efforts.