

*Motions*

dependence on traditional resource industries. Our space program had to be designed to help us revitalize our resource industries and use the new technologies available to make them more efficient and productive and to add greater value to the products that are delivered.

There is the historic problem of regional disparity. The space program had to be designed to deliver benefits to all regions of the country in a fair and equitable manner.

The third major principle upon which the program is built is the commercialization of our space-related products, activities and research. As important as it is for our prestige, it is not good enough to simply fly our flag in space. It was a source of pride to all of us to see the Canadian flag printed prominently on the Canadarm every time the shuttle took off. However, it is even more important that the technology that is developed for space and the research that is done find quick and efficient diffusion into applications for more conventional uses.

The remote manipulation technology which underlies the advanced robotic system that is the Canadarm is equally applicable underground in mines, under the oceans and inside nuclear reactors, wherever there is hazard to human presence. Already we have seen the application of this technology in those areas. It is important that that technology is quickly diffused and commercialized.

The fourth principle is international co-operation. We will continue to put a very strong emphasis on that. As Hon. Members would readily understand, we are not able, with the limited resources we would have, to develop by ourselves a system such as the launch system or the space transportation systems that underlie the shuttle technology. We will continue to rely on the co-operation of other countries. In fact, even the most powerful of nations in the world finds that to be very important now.

There is more and more international co-operation in space as we develop and contemplate new and exciting prospects. This we have learned to exploit in a peaceful way. Of course, that is always the underlying principle of Canadian participation in international efforts as we exploit the benefits of space.

Finally, the program had to be designed to inspire young Canadians and future generations of Canadians to take up science and technology-oriented careers to help us through the space program and provide us with the exciting benefits that flow from it. Science and technology must be made an important element of our culture.

We think that our space program meets all of these principles it was designed to meet. The space station is an example of this. The Hon. Member made reference to it in his remarks as being one of the items with which the committee had to deal. The space station program is a civilian program for peaceful purposes and 13 European countries, Japan, the United States and Canada are partners in it. That gives Hon. Members an indication of how exciting this project is. These countries will all co-operate in common facilities at the station

and will work together in a peaceful way to exploit the new technologies that will flow from that enterprise.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind, and the committee came to that conclusion, that the space station will perhaps be the single largest repository of new technologies and ideas that will be generated in the early part of the next century. It is critically important. Yes, it is important to us that the concept on which the invitation to Canada was based is maintained. It is important that it remain a civilian and peaceful exercise. We shall not have it any other way. I was in Europe a month ago and found that Switzerland, Sweden and the other European countries will not have it any other way, nor will the United States have it any other way. We have this assurance and I can further assure the Hon. Member that the MOU that has now been negotiated will provide additional safeguards to ensure that our strong position in this area is respected. I was in Washington last week and I am in a position to provide Cabinet with some recommendations on that which it would have to consider.

Our space program is designed to improve our communications infrastructure and custodial practices over our natural resources. The space station is perhaps the most adventurous of the three main components of the space program and is designed for the purposes I have stated. The program will provide many, many more future-oriented jobs in all regions of the country.

The prime contractor, Spar, has been relied on in the past to act as the chosen instrument of Canada in a private-sector way. It has now rearranged its corporate structure to include companies in all regions of the country in the space program. MacDonald Dettwiler in Vancouver, British Columbia, will be the partner for British Columbia. SED Systems of Saskatoon will be the partner for the Prairies. The IMP group in Halifax will be the partner in the maritime provinces, and of course, CAE of Montreal which has built all the simulator systems for the various projects in the past will be the Quebec component of the new private-sector space consortium, and information will be exchanged. The program will deliver a balanced regional presence throughout the country.

Already the space-related private sector is one of the fastest growing sectors in the country. Already 3,500 Canadians work directly in the space-related industry and the industry has in the last few years experienced a rather spectacular growth factor.

I am pleased with the work that has been done by the committee. It produced an excellent report. Again, I thank the Hon. Member for bringing it before the House. We have a sort of mutual admiration society. The committee did endorse what we proposed and committed to do, though there were some minor concerns expressed. I think those concerns were allayed in the Government's response to the committee report. The committee produced an excellent report in which it expressed strong support for the federal Government's objectives in space—to build on Canada's expertise in space, to maintain