

*Supply*

abroad worth \$116 million and 86 technology transfers worth \$82 million. These results speak for themselves. These programs are working. There is more dynamism and export orientation in this country than ever before.

The Department of Industry, Science and Technology, of which I am a part, also has been very much a part of this strategy. We do not have time to go through all the programs that ISTC is responsible for, but many of them are co-ordinated with External Affairs. Therefore, the programs I have spoken to involve the Department of Industry, Science and Technology.

There are two crucial things I would like to mention before I sit down. First of all, we in Canada feel that there has not been an appropriate entrepreneurial culture in Canada. What we have been trying to do is develop an entrepreneurship awareness or stimulation in Canada through an awareness program, and also through the new National Entrepreneurship Development Institute. That awareness program is working. We have all 10 ministers of education across Canada working with us to put entrepreneurship programs into the high schools. We are creating a culture of entrepreneurship in Canada which will help us greatly in terms of world competitiveness.

Second, with regard to the Department of Industry, Science and Technology generally, we have put in place a Strategic Technologies Program. This is a very interesting program that affects the whole Canadian economy. What it does is promote technological capabilities and competitiveness across all sectors. This includes the resource sector, the high tech sector and the service and medical sectors. It responds to world-wide trends demonstrating the value of strategic alliances. It enhances networking and linkages across Canada. When it does that, it also promotes Canadian unity.

An example is a Vancouver company getting together with a Trois-Rivières company. I know of a company in London that has just done a joint venture with a company in Newfoundland. These things are uniting for the country and they flow from the Strategic Technologies Programs. These strategic technologies include biotechnology advance materials and informatics, for example. This program has been very well received by companies. It is enhancing our ability to be competitive.

This adds up to not only a set of good intentions for Canada, but programs that are out there working, in place, enhancing our competitiveness.

That, together with responsible fiscal policy leadership which we have had from the Minister of Finance for the last six and a half years—the only topic to which my hon. friend really referred earlier—and together with an ability to moderate inflation, to make us more competitive in terms of inflation in other countries in Europe, Asia or elsewhere to decrease our deficit in a continuous way, will also allow us to be more competitive.

All of this fits together. Today, we have a government committed to competitiveness globally and programs to make it work.

**Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to what the hon. Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism was saying.

I was curious about whether there was a single person in the House of Commons who would agree with the points he was making in terms of the general thesis that the government is on the right track with support for small business. I have just completed a three week survey of the small businesses in my constituency during which I asked them what they thought about how the present federal government was handling the economy in terms of their interest.

I am pleased to say that two out of ten businesses thought that the government was not doing too badly. Fair enough. One of the ten did not really know because it was too busy surviving and was not able to make an intelligent decision. But seven out of ten businesses thought that the government was on a disastrous course, one on which, if it continues that way, will not allow them to be in business for any length of time.

I want to ask the minister responsible for small businesses what he thinks of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and its survey regarding the impact of the goods and services tax on the small business sector. This, of course, represents in excess of 70,000 small businesses across the country which were surveyed in an objective and scientific fashion. I say relatively.

The point is that an overwhelming majority, virtually everyone, says that the government is taking them on a