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tools to make sure that does happen and we do not continue building bigger and bigger cities that are more and more polluted. Nor should we continue building more and more expressways. Instead we should have a more balanced growth in our society and promote more self-reliance, encourage more economic democracy, so that the ordinary people have more say over their lives and their environment than has been the case in the past.

I do think these are some of the things that can be accomplished. These are some of the things that we will have to think seriously about as legislators.

I have tried to raise a number of questions this afternoon. I do not know what the answers are to many of the issues we have been discussing today. I do think the values and objectives of a humane and decent society must remain. We must use the new technology, the robots and computers, to enhance that humaneness and decency and to try to increase the standard of living of the poor and the dispossessed. If we can do that, then surely the world of the twenty-first century can be a lot more just and exciting than the world we are experiencing right now.

[Translation]

Mr. Lachance: First of all, Madam Speaker, I should like to say that the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) has just described very adequately the problems resulting from the introduction of robotics in the '80s. He compared this problem with the dilemma Western societies were faced with after the war due to automation which replaced a labour force which was unable to adjust. He mentioned also the need to retrain and upgrade the skills of our labour force. Would he not agree with me, however—I think I gathered from his remarks that he favours the development of higher-technology and robotics—when I say that in the long run, according to the experts, robots will create new jobs, just as automation did. However, in the short run, we will be faced with a rather serious unemployment situation which will affect especially the non-skilled workers who, no matter what program we may implement, will be displaced by robots. This will create in our society a fairly high level of unemployment which will add to the unemployment with which we are already faced today.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Would the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) like to reply to the Hon. Member for Rosemont (Mr. Lachance)?

Mr. Nystrom: Yes Mr. Speaker.

I have been an optimist for a long time. I believe that in the long run, there will be more jobs available in Canada, provided we establish a high technology development policy. Last year, unfortunately, for lack of such a policy, we had an international trade deficit of approximately \$8 billion in the field of high technology and several countries have now out distanced us. I

for one believe that there will be an increasing reliance on computers in schools for example as well as in all sectors of society.

I just read an article by an American economist which stated that by 1985, 75 per cent of all jobs in North America will require the use of a computer.

In my opinion, it makes a lot of sense to have a high technology sector in Canada. It is crucial that we in Canada manufacture computers and all the goods that we need in this country. It is very important in order to avoid relying too often on imports.

The problem must be addressed immediately. We have to cope with the transition from today's world to the society in which we will live 15 or 20 years from now. That is the issue and I believe that the challenge for us, as members of Parliament, is to find a way, through retraining programs like those in Japan or in European countries to provide new jobs for Canadians.

Mr. Lachance: In his intervention, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) described some of the difficulties experienced by Governments which are literally assaulted by the great many calls for help from declining industries in a world of high technology. Given our limited budgetary resources, I would like to ask him to what extent he is suggesting that we, as a Government and as elected Members, help high technology industries—which will necessarily reduce our assistance to declining industries—and what will be the impact in terms of unemployment and jobs in those lagging industries which are generally rather labour intensive.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, that is a very thorny and very important issue.

I think that Canada can have a lot of economic changes. We have spent quite a bit of money to build the F-18, for instance, and a lot more as well for useless things. I would suggest that we must do as many other countries of the world have done, including Japan, France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Scandinavian countries, and that is spend more money on high technology. Recently I called upon Dr. Stuart Smith, the Chairman of the Science Council of Canada, a Government of Canada agency. He often says that many other countries are now ahead of Canada. He also says that, according to the percentage of our GNP, we have spent much less in Canada than many other countries have and that we will have to change our priorities.

That is why the standard of living in Canada has been dropping since 1960 when we ranked second in the world, whereas we are now no higher than 18th or 19th. That is why we have to review our economic priorities. We need an economic strategy for the future.