

*Supply*

repeated efforts to convince the federal government to invest more funds in research and development in Quebec. I proudly point out that since 1974 this government has increased the funds allocated to Quebec for the aerospace industry through defence programs, for industrial and commercial programs, and for other creative endeavours. And I think that the cherry on the cake, as we say, was of course the decision made by the federal government, through the National Research Council of Canada, to set up in Quebec an Industrial Materials Research Institute. I hope that is the first of a series of investments in Quebec. I would remind my colleague from Joliette that during the nine months his party was in office we very nearly had a rational decision altered for political considerations in that the Industrial Materials Research Institute came close to being moved to a less favourable riding from an environmental point of view. We had to seek the full support of Quebec's scientific community to make them uphold the rational judgment which led to the original decision. Fortunately, it will now be possible to establish in Quebec, in co-operation with IREQ and the Industrial Materials Research Institute, a significant scientific research foundation in which, I hope, the private sector will eventually participate.

The other issue raised by our friends opposite is that our failure to consult has led to the complete disappearance of the climate of confidence in Canada. And I could hear the member for Joliette tell us again that he is not blaming the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy), he probably tried to achieve a few things in the past two years, but to think and talk of consultation is still a fairly new notion in this country. I wonder where the member for Joliette was in 1977-78. Once again, I am coming back to the process of consultation in terms of productivity. Faced with technological changes, and global economic developments and confronted with the realities of our economic and trade situation the government, as early as 1977-78, through the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, started what I believe to be the best possible round of consultations ever. The government invited representatives from 22 major industries to a round table in order to determine which measures should be taken with a view to helping sectors cope with the future. Twenty-two industries took part in these consultations including representatives from the private sector, unions, provincial and federal governments. Those 22 groups, met over a period of more than a year after which they submitted their recommendations. Thereafter, a 23rd work group was set up for the exclusive study of the issue of productivity in all areas. It was, in a way, an overall review of all the specific studies which had been undertaken. So, if this is not consultation, I wonder to what length the federal government should be going for the hon. member for Joliette to recognize that consultations did take place.

It is said that this trust has disappeared forever in our country. I am sorry but I do consult my constituents. Also, my caucus asked me to consult some specific groups during the summer recess and that is exactly what the Minister of

National Revenue (Mr. Bussières), the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), who was Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources at the time and myself did. We consulted business organizations in every area of Quebec and found out that this trust is still there. Still there too is the private sector's determination—some of my colleagues visited labour groups—to work in co-operation with the federal government. We were told by the business community that the 5 and 6 program was an excellent idea and if anything that maybe it did not go far enough. The government could have talked about 3 and 4 per cent according to them. But one could feel that these people were determined to put their shoulder to the wheel because they believe in Canada's potential, they believe in our future and they are prepared to invest in it and to rise to the challenge that is facing us. For all these reasons, because we have the necessary drive and resources, the minister of Employment and Immigration has introduced specific programs to help us solve this crisis but we had something to build on. We already had a job creating scheme—I am referring to the community programs worth over \$1.4 billion,—which has been in place for several years, but I must say, without partisanship, that one of the first steps which the Progressive Conservative Party had in mind when it came to power was to axe these programs. And we are told today that we do not intervene enough; yet the reason we defeated the Conservative government was that we felt this measure and others did not meet the aspirations of Canadians. Moreover, because of the current crisis, we have just added \$1.1 billion to the \$1.4 billion, under a sort of emergency budget, including \$200 million earmarked directly for the housing industry, an industry which I know very well, and which will continue to provide \$3,000 to home-buyers. In my constituency, this program has convinced municipalities to grant tax breaks at the municipal level, and some contractors are already saying: Bernard, because of the reduction in interest rates over the past few months, this federal program has convinced the other two levels of government to do likewise, so that new house starts are increasing. That is an industry we have helped.

In order to help not just the West, but the whole of Canada, we have added \$400 million to what we already had allocated to a major CNR capital investment program. I had a conversation recently with Jack Horner, a good friend of several Hon. Members, about the capital investment plans of the CNR out West. They used to laugh at us whenever Prime Minister Trudeau referred to the possible construction of double railway lines in Western Canada. I must say that a number of Progressive Conservative Party Members . . . Because of my duties as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, I used to accompany the Hon. Member for Crowfoot, and people would laugh at this idea, although this project would meet the needs of the Prairies, a most productive area indeed. Under this project, the CNR will invest billions of dollars in Western Canada to double the capacity of our railway network, thereby creating jobs in every part of Canada, including my own province of Quebec. Because we are