

make possible the marketing of new goods and services. In our view, invention and technology transfer must go hand in hand.

History shows the best borrowers or adapters of technology often are those already involved in research and development. We must therefore have a much more balanced approach. We cannot do everything ourselves, but we can neither be content with borrowing technology from others.

The private sector all across Canada has shown leadership in the area of innovation and technology. Northern Telecom, for instance, has been marketing Canadian communication technology throughout the world for a number of years.

[English]

Alcan is the largest and probably one of the most efficient aluminium producers in the world based on its past research efforts. It is now becoming a world leader in the development of new materials. Such companies as National Sea Products, Fishery Products International and Canada Packers are using innovation and new technologies to diversify and improve their products and productivity.

In addition, there are hundreds of new companies across Canada, such as Process Technology in New Brunswick, Ogivar Inc. in Quebec, Diffracto in Windsor, SED in Saskatchewan, to name only a few, that are achieving remarkable results in international high technology.

For Canada, continued research and development and the ability to import technologies, to apply and build upon them and to market the results will be key elements of an improved competitive position. We require investment capital and linkages with world industry to accomplish this objective.

Our Government established Investment Canada as a national focal point to encourage the essential investment and creative partnerships necessary to this critical priority.

[Translation]

For instance, last year the Agency was involved with the Province of Alberta and the Independent Petroleum Association in a series of investment promotion seminars throughout Europe and the United States.

More recently, officials from Investment Canada also joined with representatives of the Ontario Government in a trip to Japan.

Moreover, Investment Canada is also involved on behalf of the Canadian Government in a number of other activities, such as consulting with national and international trade groups and also international promotion missions.

That work must go on, Mr. Speaker, and this Government's commitment to encourage investment in all its forms is vitally important.

[English]

During the coming year, Investment Canada will focus on contributing to the improvement of our technological infrastructure to promote and attract technology-bearing investment

in Canada; working with Canadian business to promote a more global orientation; and seeking new forms of investments, such as strategic alliances among Canadian and international firms.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the Government is determined to review and update, if necessary, its regional and industrial development support programs to make sure that all parts of the country are treated equitably and that the Canadian industry continues to improve its international competitiveness.

However, the funds allocated to regional and industrial development are nothing but a few drops in the ocean of the Canadian economy. Our programs, therefore, have to be very selective, which means that investments generally should be made without any State intervention.

That is why we want the private sector to become the engine of our economic growth. In fact, the Government has made every effort to lift obstacles by encouraging deregulation and creating a climate favourable to business endeavours.

[English]

The business sector needs a Government that will provide a productive and competitive environment, that will provide support as required and that will stay the course in the development process. We are that Government, and we have that commitment. We can develop as partners.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Chair is now ready to make a ruling on the amendment proposed by Mr. Cassidy and seconded by Mr. Riis. The Chair finds the amendment to be in order.

Are there questions or comments on the speech of the Hon. Minister? The Hon. Member for Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis).

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I have a short question to ask of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Côté). It was indicated in the press this morning that in New Brunswick, the province in which a number of support agreements have been signed with the business sector, the Government there has been making a great many decisions in terms of this support for business based on political criteria as opposed to economic, industrial and business criteria. Does the Minister have some comment to make on these reports?

[Translation]

Mr. Côté (Langelier): As I mentioned in my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I think that since September, 1984, my Government has not only indicated its desire to address the issue of regional development through several concrete initiatives, but we have signed many so-called ERDAs or Economic Regional Development Agreements with most provinces, respecting several areas of activities. We have also signed with the provinces several memoranda of understanding based on regional economic development.