

dramatically, to increase real growth and to increase productivity. Inflation and unemployment will be reduced, and there are positive indicators that the federal deficit and debt will fall. The key to these favourable impacts is the dual stimulation of business investment and the furthering of exports by Canadian firms. Together the two will help pull the Canadian economy back toward its potential.

The resources of government can be quite usefully employed in support of private sector growth, particularly in terms of export development, co-ordination of effort, achievement of consensus and provision of information. However, the resources of government should be employed to support private sector growth and not to compete with it.

We will not arrive at our objective overnight. There is no magic wand which can be used to reduce to zero the deficit we have inherited. There is no easy formula by which economic growth can be forced. To achieve national consensus on approaches to difficult and contentious issues will take much effort and considerable time. What is required is a consistent and persistent pursuit of agreed objectives, and I believe we have made a start in that direction. While work has already begun, lengthy and painstaking work and discussion is in front of us. However, I am confident that over the coming months the business community of Canada will come to realize that through sound fiscal management; through effective federal-provincial co-operation; through consultation with business and labour; and through consensus on major economic issues, the Government of Canada will do all that is possible to ensure the regeneration of private sector driven economic development in this country. In the process, the new business enterprises, as well as our existing enterprises in all regions, will not only survive but will thrive, thereby creating the employment and well-being which Canadians have a right to expect and which they were so obviously denied by a Liberal government which ruled this country for almost 16 years.

I am further confident that Hon. Members will be able to agree with me that when it comes to economic development, this Government, in the true sense of that phrase, means business.

**Mr. Deans:** Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the statements of the Minister. I must say that this is perhaps the first time I have heard set out as clearly the economic direction the Government intends to take. Apparently, we are to use the resources of Canada to fatten the pockets of those who have much at the expense of those who have little.

I wonder if the Minister has considered the long-term implications of opening up Canada for unrestricted investment from wherever, at whatever time or in whatever sector the investor determines he or she might want to invest. Has the Minister seriously looked at what has happened in this country over the last 20 years? The overwhelming majority of private-sector corporations in Canada do little if any research and development here. They draw almost entirely on the research and development facilities of their parent corporations wherever they are located. In spite of the grant structure put in place by not only the Liberal Government that was here prior

### *The Address—Mr. Stevens*

to the last election as well as the Government of Ontario and many other provinces, some of them Conservative, in spite of their attempts to hand over taxpayers' dollars in an effort to get research and development to be the focus of the multinational corporations, they failed on almost every single occasion.

● (1140)

What does the Minister believe he can offer that will get the major multinational corporations to locate their research and development facilities in Canada? What kind of guarantee is the Minister prepared to extract from those who are eager to extract from the Canadian economy, those who want to come in and invest, that there will be research and development facilities which will allow Canadians who have gone through the educational system to find employment in their chosen field?

Finally, how does the Minister reconcile the emphasis that he puts on research and development with his Government's actions? The Government, in its budget statement, slashed and cut, as is the Minister's penchant, in every single area of crucial importance in terms of research and development. How are we to believe that this Government has an overriding view of the importance of that particular element to the future of Canada when in fact the Government's own actions make it quite clear that it does not give a damn about research and development?

**Mr. Stevens:** Mr. Speaker, in replying to the Hon. Member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Deans), I could say first of all that I sense a slight glimmer of hope for him. I think there is some sadness in his tone as to what in fact occurred over the last 20 years. He is taking an earnest look at it now, and I hope he remembers how often his Party came to the rescue of the Liberals when they needed that help to keep them in power.

When he describes what has happened in the last 20 years, he is undoubtedly referring to the fact that 20 years ago we had fewer than 500,000 Canadians out of work. Now, partly because of the alliance between his Party and the Liberal Party, we have almost 1.5 million Canadians out of work. That, I say to the Hon. Member, is totally out of the question. It cannot be tolerated, and it is time that those government policies, aided and abetted over the bulk of those 20 years by him and by his Party, were changed to allow a healthier economy in Canada so that Canadians can once again get the jobs to which they are rightfully entitled.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I sense a glimmer of hope when he refers to the changes that we anticipate for the Foreign Investment Review Agency. He of course must recall that that agency has been in place since 1972, and that much of the deterred investment in Canada, much of what has been denied Canadians in the form of non-Canadian investment, could have gone into job-creation industries in this country. I think he has a tremendous, if you like, past which he has somehow to explain to the Canadian public with respect to his Party's support of so many of these previous initiatives.