

by non-Canadians to acquire Canadian businesses or to repatriate foreign ownership of assets.

Third, it will provide that FIRA undertake a program of periodic reviews of individual performances of large foreign-owned subsidiaries operating in Canada in key areas like research and development and export activity.

Add to all these government actions, and more, our favourable exchange rate, and I think you have the combination for a strong and vibrant Canadian economy; and this is our fundamental goal for the 1980s.

Moreover, unlike the Conservatives who congenitally prefer inaction and fumble badly when they do manage to act, we have not been content to wait until our industrial development framework was completed, but rather where measures made sense we have moved ahead. For instance, this was the case in the implementation we began of the program to assist the development of the electronics industry. Consequently, for the past four months we have provided decisive evidence to the Canadian public that they made the right choice in getting rid of the Conservative government and electing a majority Liberal government on February 18.

● (1650)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Gray: I think we have given the public confidence that there is in office a federal government which is alive to its concerns, a government which does not intend to give away a central role, a national role, in the development of the economy and is prepared to take immediate action where necessary in the public interest.

Foremost among reactions by this government was our successful effort in joining with others in meeting the threat to our political union posed by the PQ referendum. That referendum clearly demonstrated that a majority of all Quebecers want to be a part of this country and do not want to turn away from their fellow Canadians with whom they share a significant past and can share a brighter, prosperous future. To me this was the major message of the referendum and we should be pleased with it, especially since an important part of that victory was the role played by the federal Liberal statement of our economic future.

But the referendum has not by itself, nor could it have done so, answered a variety of other questions that are important to Canada's continued viability as a sovereign, strong and economically vital nation. For instance, it has not told us whether Canadians in every region want Canada as a whole to be greater than the sum of its parts or merely equal to the sum of its parts, although I think Canadians believe, as I do, they want a Canada with a national purpose and a strong national government. The referendum has not told us whether the very real differences among our people can be reconciled and accommodated in a renewed federal system that is strong enough to meet the political and economic challenges of the 1980s. But I, for one, believe they can. These are the challenges the government is addressing during this period of

constitutional discussion. And the preservation and development of our economic union now becomes of major importance.

Mr. Speaker, I have already mentioned by way of example the industrial offsets of the new fighter aircraft and the assistance to Chrysler as indications of how this government is prepared to take decisions which the previous government was unable or unwilling to take in the interests of all Canadians.

To conclude, I want to say that with the achievements we have already carried out in industrial development we have laid a solid foundation for a great deal of further action within the framework of a comprehensive and integrated national development policy. With the policies we have put forward, with the policies we have begun to implement, with the action we intend to take, we shall be creating jobs and stimulating growth throughout Canada. We want to build, we will build, a better Canada for all Canadians, and I think we are well on our way toward accomplishing that goal.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Taylor: May I ask the minister a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Would the minister permit a question?

Mr. Gray: I would be happy to do so, if there is time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): This can only be done with the unanimous consent of the House. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Taylor: I would ask the minister: is that not the same speech he made a few years ago, just before he was booted out of the cabinet?

Some hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Gray: No, Mr. Speaker. This is the speech I made which helped get the hon. member and his party booted out of office before they ruined the economy.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Rose: Would the minister permit a further question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Again this would require unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Rose: The minister talked about the great benefits of the \$3 billion industrial offsets associated with the F-18A fighter aircraft. Since the figures which he released in a paper on April 10 stated that 47 per cent of the offsets went to Quebec and 41 per cent to Ontario, with only 12 per cent to the rest of Canada, how much of that benefit accrues to British Columbia in terms of industrial offsets?

Mr. Gray: The figures the hon. gentleman mentioned reflect an analysis of how benefits might be distributed in the light of