Mr. Evans: In the cause of world peace, as the old saying goes, if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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POLITICAL PARTIES

INVASION OF GRENADA—POSITION OF PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the same topic as the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor), because during the last week the Conservative Party has refused to take a stand against the Reagan administration's invasion of Grenada. Meanwhile, in Britain, that Party's soul sister, Margaret Thatcher, has condemned the invasion as wrong. In fact, many of the Conservative speakers during the special parliamentary debate on Grenada last Thursday were dangerously reminiscent of the 1950 McCarthy regime in the United States.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, where is the Party of John Diefenbaker, who as Prime Minister was not afraid to stand up to an American president? Where is the Party of Robert Stanfield, a statesman, and a man who was respected on all sides of the House for his balanced and moderate views of the world? Where is the new Leader of the Conservative Party (Mr. Mulroney) when it comes to standing up for Canada? The Conservative Party has been reduced to a branch plant of Mr. Reagan's Republicans. The Americanization of the Conservative Party is complete.

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NORTHERN AFFAIRS

NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSION—CRITICISM OF NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD REPORT

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane-Superior): Mr. Speaker, on Friday last the National Energy Board released its report on the federally owned Northern Canada Power Commission. Not wanting to be unduly harsh in my judgment of this report, I must, however, describe its recommendations as inept, inadequate and, above all, an insult to the two territorial governments and to the people who live north of 60 degrees. Rather than agreeing to the recommendations of a subcommittee of this House calling for the break up of NCPC into two territorially owned power commissions, with a debt free transfer of the assets, the National Energy Board argues for essentially maintaining the status quo.

It wants yet another federal regulatory agency to set rates and to be given complete and final authority in establishing NCPC's annual revenue requirements. The debt burden, it suggests, should remain, except for a very small portion.

What northerners want is to have their own public utility boards assume full responsibility for the setting of rates, and to have those rates roughly comparable to those in effect elsewhere in Canada. This is impossible under the present legislation which governs the Northern Canada Power Commission. Comparability in rate structures can easily be achieved by adding an energy agreement for cost recoveries in the North as is now done for health, social services, education, economic development, justice and public services, public works, and so on.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*English*]

THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT'S INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Hon. Michael Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister in the absence of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. Statistics Canada in its economic figures the other day showed that the economy has dropped because of the poor performance in housing, wholesale trade, and manufacturing. This confirms the fears of a number of economists who have been pointing out that we are in a very slow recovery and, in particular, the Canadian recovery is looking much weaker than that of the United States.

Since the key difference between the industrial policies of the U.S. and Canadian Governments is that the Government of Canada has exercised a much greater degree of direct intervention in the economy, is the Prime Minister proposing that the industrial policy of his Government shift to a less interventionist policy?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Government's policy on the subject was published in the last budget, and also in a number of documents that were published subsequently to stress the importance of the private sector and the role it must play in Canada's economic recovery.

I may remind the hon. gentleman that during the first two quarters of 1983, Canada's economy was growing at a faster rate than the U.S. economy. In fact, our economic growth rate over this period was the highest of all major industrialized countries. We are waiting for the figures for the third quarter. As the honourable gentleman is aware, there was a slack period in July and August especially in August in residential construction as a result of termination of our housing construction stimulation programs. Since that time, however, there has been some recovery, and we believe we shall again have the same high growth rate we had during the first part of 1983.