

tion and force. But when it came to anything that would give us a framework by which the Conservative Party of Canada would offer a recovery program, one ends up chasing after vapours which are whisked away into the atmosphere before anyone can catch hold.

The only thing we heard in Question Period from the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) was the old hackneyed rabbit out of the hat "give a tax credit to business to employ people". It is unfortunate that the Hon. Member has not gone back to read the evaluations of the program in place when his Government was in power, which indicated that something like 80 per cent of the jobs created were not incremental at all, and that such programs give no control or ability to target where the jobs should be. It is a little bit of a free gift but it does not create any additional jobs. That is the freshness of their thinking. That is the new innovation they are offering the Canadian people, a program devised several years which did not work. We are supposed to accept that as being the gospel of job creation according to the Hon. Member for St. John's East, who is probably as misguided as some of the other sort of preachers of gospel who have come along the way.

In listening to my hon. friend from the NDP, we now finally discover what their secret formula is. I have been sitting in this House for three years, waiting for the moment when they would reveal for the world to see their secret strategy. Now we know what it is. It is a made-in-Stockholm strategy. If we can only sort of adopt full-blown the Swedish way of doing things, then all things in Canada will be well. I have to say, Mr. Speaker, that I do not believe Canadians are prepared to adopt a foreign-made economic policy. They want a policy made by Canadians, one which reflects the desires, outlooks, attitudes and values of our own country.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Axworthy: I want to say that is the particular and important element presented in the budget last night. Our Minister of Finance has spent the last several months talking to Canadians from all walks of life—labour, business and Government. He has talked to people from one region to the other. That has provided a comprehensive reflection of the basic desires of Canadians and the kind of direction and thrust they want to see in the economic platform and blueprint for this country. The particular genius of this budget is that it really is reflective of the Canadian context. It is a made-in-Canada budget, based on the full scale contributions of Canadians from all walks of life. I want to point out that it is not, as the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) was saying, a Conservative budget. Certainly we would not adopt the kind of callous disregard of social programs that the Conservatives have, where they totally and completely disregard any willingness to support job creation programs, where they have adopted Reaganomics which simply cut back various forms of medicare. They only have to follow the leadership of their Conservative brethren in Alberta who are adding on user-fees and additional restraints on medicare budgets. That is not the Liberal way of doing things. But neither, Mr.

The Budget—Mr. Axworthy

Speaker, are we prepared to follow what seems to be the made-in-Sweden philosophy supported by the New Democratic Party—

Mr. Waddell: You are not any different from Reagan.

Mr. Axworthy: —which seems to have a totally controlled society, organized by big power blocs, where they get together and made those arrangements between themselves.

I think this budget was based upon a very open consultation with Canadians and the answer was very clear. It was given in the very first statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde): We want to create jobs. We do not want people living on welfare benefits. We want them to go back to work, and at a time when we are facing a terrible economic period. We have all seen its ravages and we all know the personal tragedy that Canadians have experienced.

● (1610)

We are all aware of how important work has become to Canadians. It is not simply a matter of a means of income; it is a way of establishing one's identity, sense of purpose and position in the family and community. Therefore the job is important both in how it gives a useful and meaningful existence to a person and in what it represents in terms of the use of a person's talents and skills.

That is why I have been disappointed not to have received the co-operation from the Members of the Opposition for the number of initiatives we have taken to try to get people back to work. Those initiatives includes such programs as work sharing, which is now in effect in approximately 13,000 factories and industries across Canada. But all we hear from the NDP and others is that it is taking income away from people. It is true that some incomes are reduced by some 10 per cent, but there are over 100,000 workers who have kept jobs that otherwise would have disappeared had it not been for that program.

I would ask the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-St. James (Mr. Keeper), who is sitting there in his corner and was so critical of the program, to go to Thompson, Manitoba, in our Province and talk to the United Steel Workers local in that City where 2,700 people are back to work at Inco because of the work sharing program.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Axworthy: Let him go back there and tell them that they did not benefit from it. I would like to see if he has the courage to tell them that this is a make-nothing program. They are back to work and their families are happy and satisfied because that company is back in business again.

I would like to say at the same time that the thrust of this budget is not to latch on to one single panacea. Canadians have recognized, and it is reflected in the budget, that there is no one magical solution. It is necessary to work on a variety of economic fronts and it is particularly important to be careful to examine the economic reality which exists. There is no point