Supplementary Borrowing Authority

enough, they had to have lay-offs as well. In addition, as far as Winnipeg is concerned, we have a transfer of the VIA repair work from Transcona shops to Montreal. This is a repeat of the Air Canada overhaul transfer from Winnipeg to Montreal, about which I will be having more to say in the future, Mr. Speaker, but for now I wanted to highlight the contradictory, nonsensical, insane economic policies of this Government, as they relate to the railway industry in particular. There we find the kind of contradictions that, if we had the time to look, we would find throughout this country as a result of the economic policies of this Government supported by my Progressive Conservative friends, because no one has done more over the years to put the Liberals in that position than the Conservatives.

• (1550)

Mr. Cosgrove: Mr. Speaker, I had obtained the permission of the last speaker for a short question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I would advise the Hon. Minister that the previous speaker's time has been exhausted and a question can only be put with the unanimous consent of the House. Is there unanimous consent.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Cosgrove: Mr. Speaker, the question was motivated by the emphasis that the Hon. Member placed upon investment and economic nationalism aspects, and my question is, would he, thus, with such emphasis, support the objectives of the two principles of the Government, that of the Foreign Investment Review Agency to promote Canadian jobs, and of course the objective of the national energy policy to obtain Canadianization and control of that sector of investment in Canada?

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I was gearing up for a really hard question. Of course we support the general goal of Canadianization and of what the Foreign Investment Review Agency was touted to be at its inception, but the fact of the matter is that the Foreign Investment Review Agency approves almost everything that comes before it, I think something in the neighbourhood of 95 per cent. The National Energy Program was a sort of milquetoast Canadianization, 50 per cent by 1990, and even that was mostly private. So we were not terribly impressed with it.

It seems the government is backing down on even those goals. Indeed, the Prime Minister is known to have asked for the support of the provincial Premiers in wanting to further weaken FIRA, so I am not quite sure why the Hon. Minister gave me this opportunity to say more about the way in which his Party has backed down recently on these kinds of issues.

Mr. John Evans (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, I was very interested in listening to the words of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie), because I think he put the socialist position as clearly and as forcefully as anyone in this House could put it. I think it is now clear on the record what the left wing of the left wing Party thinks, and it should be very interesting to see what is going to happen when that Party has its convention and people such as the Hon. Member have to stand up and discuss the economic ideas, concepts and

programs that his leader put forward the other day. I will speak to that in a moment, but they include some notions and some incentive programs which would fly directly in the face of the socialistic notions that the Hon. Member seems to hold so strongly to his bosom because, Mr. Speaker, the program put forward by the Leader of the New Democratic Party certainly is a long way from the kind of socialist rhetoric we have heard from the Hon. Member here this afternoon. Indeed, it is a 180 degree turn from the kind of socialist rhetoric we have heard from the Hon. Member here this afternoon. It flies right in the fact of the things the NDP has been professing for so long. Hon. Members, if they do not believe it, should read it more closely, and perhaps if they understood what they were talking about they would see that in fact I am correct.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I think we are in the middle of a process which will lead us to a recovery. The Hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde) has come forward with his financial statement early on in the resumed session, very admirably so in that he put forward the position of the country economically with regard to the figures and information that Canadians need to understand the specific facts facing us. He put those forward on the very first day the House resumed. I heard a lot about the Prime Minister's (Mr. Trudeau's) statement prior to the resumption of the House, and there was concern by the media and journalists and others that he had not put forward specific recommendations or program policy announcements. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that there is an over-all plan. I have not been told this by the Prime Minister or others, but it seems to me there is a plan which fits into the following kind of framework: the Prime Minister's message was to lay out, to put forward in the three evenings, to set the stage and provide the framework for the kinds of policies and programs and adjustments to existing programs which were going to be made by the Government during this session and the next session of Parliament. This is to provide us with a clear understanding of the general state of our economic affairs, the need to pull together, if we are going to come out of this in a recovery, and take advantage of the world economic recovery as it certainly will occur.

The fact is that governments cannot pull us out of this situation on their own. It is going to take a co-operative effort from all Canadians with the help of government, which is quite contrary to what we have heard earlier from the socialist member who would tell us that Government alone can do it all and Canadians can just stand aside and watch the Government do it for them. I do not think that can happen, and I would suggest that Canadians do not want that to happen. They certainly do not want the Government in Ottawa, led by whoever, to be completely and totally running their lives and saying: stand aside, we will do it for you.

We have seen the kind of society that has emerged in Sweden, especially the young people there, which is put forward as the great model by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill.