

States in its worldwide arms and defence strategy. We have made acquisitions in the United States of the Auroras program. We spent \$1 billion plus in looking at new offshore patrol aircraft for which we are allegedly receiving benefit. But we did not do that with a defence plan in mind. We have not seen a policy direction from the new Government on the role the Canadian Armed Forces will play and what Canada's role should be in an international context.

We have expended more than \$1 billion for offshore patrol aircraft without a policy statement from the new Government. Indeed, if my memory serves me correctly, we had not received one from the previous Government since the early 1970s. The Canadian public has no idea where we are going. This Parliament has no idea where we are going. A dollar will get you a doughnut that this Government does not know where it is going.

What is happening is that this Government is being dictated to by the Americans who say, "We have the plan, we have the worldwide strategy. You will lock into it and we will produce your equipment and give you some offsets". We have purchased a fighter aircraft at a cost of several billion dollars. We don't know what that fighter aircraft is being used for. It does not fit into any over-all defence plan on a worldwide basis, because Government has not produced a defence plan.

At one point an Hon. Member—I don't know whether or not he was a government member—with tongue in cheek was pointing out that McDonnell Douglas Canada Ltd. had promised to give Canada a \$300 million tourism program as an offset. I believe one of the Hon. Members of the Conservative Party was suggesting that a useful role for the CF-18 might be to take the aircraft around the country from fair to fair and give rides in it. That might provide as much use as it is providing in many quarters today. I am sure it was just a tongue in cheek remark, but what I believe he was getting at, Mr. Speaker, is that we do not have a game plan for Canada's role internationally in a defence strategy.

Where do we fit in? We don't even have a national defence plan. The last time we saw something in writing was 15 years ago. That is almost as far away as the industrial revolution. It is time this Government put a plan before this House. That should be done before we expend billions of dollars more without knowing where we are going, except that we are just locking into Uncle Sam's plan and his worldwide concept of how things should be run. We are locked into President Reagan's game plan. That should make anyone's blood run cold.

We are going to spend billions of dollars buying a frigate if the Government manages to get it back on track, and there are a lot of pitfalls there. We are buying a lot of technology from the United States. We were hoping that one of the side benefits will be to put Canada's shipyards back in action, but the Prime Minister of Canada, in an interview the other day, said he would like to get rid of the subsidies on shipbuilding in this country. I wonder what some of the more outspoken Hon. Members of the Conservative Party who have been fighting for

this for years are telling the Prime Minister behind closed doors.

We don't have a Canadian defence policy put before this House and the country. Those billions of dollars are being expended across the line and we would certainly like to have some idea of why. We would like some assurance from the Government that in fact we have not lost our offset because of the bungling of the previous Government in letting the contract. We would also like to know if the Prime Minister is serious about wanting to gut the Canadian shipbuilding industry by cutting off all the subsidies being used in an attempt to make this a competitive and restructured industry in a very brisk and difficult international market.

● (1700)

The long and the short of the defence message today was that this Government does not know where it is going. It is expending billions upon billions of dollars for defence hardware and new uniforms without a defence plan. The only possible option is to tie into Reagan's plan. Frankly, a lot of people in this country do not want to have anything to do with that plan which is bringing this world closer and closer to the brink of destruction. This is a profound loss of Canadian sovereignty. We have an opportunity to play a meaningful role in the world community in moving toward permanent peace and disarmament. But this has been compromised by this Government. We have had seven months of compromises. If we give them five years who knows what this country will look like? Who knows what our independent status in the world will be? Certainly the Liberals damaged it sorely, but the Conservatives may be out to lay it to rest.

While dealing with the topic of Canadian sovereignty, Mr. Speaker, another question is that of the gutting of the Foreign Investment Review Agency. This ties in with the International Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the International Financial Agency. The Bill before us today represents a serious encroachment on Canadian sovereignty. Let us look at the context within which the Government is developing this type of legislation.

It was a philosophical decision which gutted FIRA. The Government said Canada was open for business. By that it means open to the multinational corporations which have presented a worldwide problem with their lack of regulation, specific investment purpose or benefit to the country concerned. These companies are unfettered and will begin to buy up constructive Canadian businesses; sometimes close them. Sometimes they will turn the course of these businesses in a totally different direction. For example, we know the track record of these corporations in funnelling interest payments and dividends out of the country. They purchase parts for assembly only in Canada, which means a loss of Canadian jobs. This type of activity means a further weakening of the Canadian economy.

In seven months the Conservative Party has done more to weaken this country and discourage confidence than we have seen in a long, long time. They should take a look at the record