

*Economic Development*

**Mr. Gray:** Our program for Chrysler is enabling the restructuring of what is Canada's seventh largest corporation of any kind in ways that will help it to operate, in areas such as purchasing of parts and research and development, that are much closer to Canada's industrial goals than may be the case at present.

We have also begun implementing a national program for the electronics industry, including a special electronics fund aimed at fostering expansion in our country of the already highly successful electronics industry. We are implementing a new national employment strategy aimed at bringing about realization of our people's legitimate aspirations for higher skilled employment and meeting the changing manpower requirements of the high growth sectors in the economy. These are also examples of the Liberal government's commitment to working energetically, to bringing the benefits of growth, increased international competitiveness, job creation and enhanced economic well-being to Canadians generally.

They also provide a solid demonstration to the Canadian people today that, unlike the Conservative government which preceded us, this government has adopted an approach to national economic development which is activist. In other words, we are not operating as a passive bystander in the industrial development of Canada but rather as an active player.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Huntington:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. This is the first time I have risen, but I would have to caution the minister, through you, sir, to not deliberately mislead the House. Because the statements he is making are misleading. There is not a program that he has mentioned here today as a Liberal program that was not—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. If the hon. member has facts to prove that the minister is misleading the House, perhaps he should bring them forward; but he should not suggest, which is what he is doing.

**Mr. Huntington:** Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, there is not a program which the minister has taken credit for as a Liberal program—

**An hon. Member:** Order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier):** Order, please. Members cannot all share the same opinion. I am sure all members would like to debate that point. However, I must say to the hon. member that his turn will come and he will be recognized, but right now the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) has the floor.

**Mr. Gray:** Mr. Speaker, it is obvious from all the interest in truth here and from what the hon. member has just said that the truth hurts.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** That is why you have your hands in your pockets.

**Mr. Gray:** Because the announcement of the decision to adopt a proposal for new fighter aircraft and the industrial benefits program was made after the government changed. I participated in that announcement. I made the decision, not my hon. friend. The decision to provide loan guarantees to Chrysler was made by the present government and announced by me on May 10. It was not made by the previous government which dithered for five months and put jobs at risk. The electronics program was announced by the previous Liberal government and the previous Conservative government, but it was implemented only after the present Liberal government came into office.

**Mr. Huntington:** Not so, Herb. That is misleading.

**An hon. Member:** Listen and learn.

**Mr. Gray:** What I have been talking about provides solid demonstrations, as I have said, that the present government is adopting an activist approach. As I have said, we are not operating as a passive bystander in the industrial development of Canada, but rather as an active player. This is the role we were elected to pursue on February 18. It is the approach to managing and developing the economy which the Government of Canada is pursuing and will continue to pursue in the interests of all Canadians.

**An hon. Member:** Where is the budget?

**Mr. Gray:** I need hardly remind members of this House that during the nine months following the May, 1979 election when the official opposition formed the government, it specifically shunned, in my view at least, an active role for the federal government in the economy. In fact, it seemed almost incapable of any action at all. More than anything else that government's approach was to pull away from direct involvement in the creation of Canada's economic future.

For instance, it was that government's intention, if it had had the chance, to sell Petro-Canada and thus eliminate a powerful instrument of the government and the Canadian people to ensure the positive development of the petroleum sector, one of our most important economic sectors.

Similarly, its members would have removed the government from the position it occupies because of actions of previous Liberal governments of being able directly and positively to assist the aerospace industry through ownership of de Havilland and Canadair as well as the nuclear industry through Eldorado Nuclear, along with a number of other important areas of economic activity.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Gray:** I could say now that I rest my case, because while the hon. member opposite says they did everything and they were activist, the other hon. member who just tried to interject said that what I am talking about is not appropriate