

S. O. 31

The results of one question will be of interest to members. I asked if MPs should always vote in this House according to their constituents' wishes or should an MP listen to all views and then vote as he or she thinks best.

People indicated they think the MP should widely consult and inform the public. By a margin of more than two to one, they told me that an MP should vote in this House as he or she thinks best. The message seems clear. People want MPs who think and lead and who are not just trained seals.

* * *

[Translation]

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard): Mr. Speaker, small and medium-sized businesses are the engine of our economy. Quebec has 25 per cent of the small businesses in Canada, but unfortunately, it recorded 38.6 per cent of Canada's business bankruptcies in 1991.

Last February 26, the then Minister of Finance, in presenting his budget, said: "This budget sets out a plan for economic recovery—a strong, confident recovery". What a disaster his forecast was.

The present Minister of Finance should implement the Liberal economic recovery program to help the remaining businesses avoid bankruptcy and to create lasting employment and give Canadians hope.

* * *

[English]

MEDICAL RESEARCH

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary Southwest): Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a Canadian scientist and his colleagues for their work.

It was announced yesterday that a major breakthrough into a better understanding of one of the world's most commonly inherited neuromuscular diseases has been made by a Medical Research Council of Canada scientific

team. The landmark finding was made in collaboration with scientists from three other countries.

The Canadian team, headed by Dr. Robert Korneluk of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario here in Ottawa has located the site of the defective gene responsible for myotonic dystrophy. The research was done in collaboration with scientists in the Netherlands, Great Britain and the United States.

MRC, the major federal agency funding medical research in Canada, provided more than \$400,000 in support of Dr. Korneluk's research. The research was also supported by the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada and its U.S. counterpart. On a world-wide basis, the disease affects about one in 800,000 people.

In closing, I am proud the Government of Canada has supported this important research and I wish to reiterate my commitment to medical research by this government.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK

Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Saskatoon—Humboldt): Mr. Speaker, with the end of the cold war the United Nations is now reorganizing its priorities. An unprecedented meeting last week of the Security Council heads of government has given rise to fears by Third World countries that their concerns are being given low priority in the United Nations.

The issue of most concern to the south is economic development. What it sees is the rich industrialized north focusing primarily on the economic needs of eastern Europe and on political issues.

Canada should show its commitment to International Development Week by using its high standing in the United Nations to bring together Nordic countries, France, Australia and the non-aligned movement and others, to ensure that the pressing economic concerns of developing countries are given high priority at the United Nations.

Canada should lead the way in ensuring that the United Nations focuses on strategies that the developing countries themselves articulate which will end hunger, disease and illiteracy. By doing that the UN will ensure a healthier, more equitable and politically stable world for all.