

per cent, a six-year low, and the Governor of the Bank of Canada is suggesting the possibility of much lower interest rates if the deficit is reduced. We have also seen, for the first time in decades, the reintroduction of mortgages with terms of seven to ten years. Our unemployment rate has fallen below 11 per cent, and we have had a significant increase in our trade surplus. In the first quarter of 1985 the Canadian economy grew at twice the rate of the United States.

On November 9 last, the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), on behalf of the Government, put forward the agenda for economic renewal. Many decisions that have been taken in the past seven months have not been easy ones. There are no simple, quick solutions to a legacy of financial ineptitude. There will be further hard decisions made in the upcoming Budget. The balanced approach to reducing our debt will be fair and equitable to all regions of Canada. Less debt means more jobs.

The country is responding with confidence to the leadership of the Government. Confidence is growing, confidence that through the principles of the work ethic and less government hand-outs, economic recovery can be achieved, at the same time being confident that this can be achieved while ensuring that those in need are cared for. This is what the Progressive Conservative Government is all about.

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[Translation]

THE AUDITOR GENERAL

HIRING OF FORMER LIBERAL MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. François Gérin (Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead): Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker. My remarks are directed to an official of this House whose behaviour astonishes me and, as I see it, belittles his important responsibilities. According to the Auditor General Act, the Auditor General shall report annually to the House of Commons and its Members on the work of his office and on whether, in carrying on the work of his office, he received all the information and explanations he required.

He must discharge his duties respecting fully our laws, our customs and our Canadian traditions.

Resorting to the courts without such specific instructions was definitively not the best nor the cheapest approach Mr. Dye could have taken to fulfil his duties. His personal decision to hire former Members to lobby through elected Members of this House, and the fact that these are Liberal Party members add insult to injury since the latter are not particularly conversant with accounting principles. The Auditor General truly overstepped his authority. In so doing he may have shown a propensity for grand-standing and sensationalism, or wanted to challenge openly the Conservative Government. Most certainly, such action lessens the confidence of the House in this

Oral Questions

official and, by the same token, undermines the institution he represents.

Just before graduating from Montreal's École des hautes études commerciales—

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member's time has expired.

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THE ADMINISTRATION

GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East): Mr. Speaker, this being Friday, it gives me great pleasure to proclaim the PAW award, the Patronage Award of the Week. The envelope, please. The nominees for the PAW award are Doug and Wendy Lawson, Peter and Marcia Clark, and Bud Sherman. And the winner is—it is a joint award, Peter and Marcia Clark. They may pick up their award this week, next week, or the week after, in my office. The prize is a Rat Pack T-shirt.

• (1115)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

COST OF TELEVISION GALA AT QUEBEC SUMMIT

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister deliberately excluded the Governor General from his meeting with the President of the United States in Quebec City last March on the grounds that it was only a working meeting. What work was being done at the television gala held during that meeting where the Prime Minister sang along with the President, which justified the Canadian taxpayers paying more than half a million dollars for the bill from the CBC for that television extravaganza?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I would like my hon. friend to know that, with the implications of that question, he has offended two million Irishmen in this country. I want that to be known. He will pay a handsome price for that.

We have not received the bill for the event that was put on, or at least I have not seen it, but it involved a showcasing of Canadian talent and young Canadian artists, both French and English, on Canadian and American network television. Every time that we have an opportunity to display such magnificent Canadian talent around the world and encourage Canadian artists, we will do so with great pride.