

### Oral Questions

during the introduction of the GST when I authored a report saying exactly the opposite?

By calling Canadians with credit card debts "foolish" in these rough economic times, *The Globe and Mail* is being both arrogant and insensitive.

\* \* \*

### UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance in his budget of 1989 said this with regard to unemployment insurance premiums:

The government will continue to contribute to the financing of unemployment insurance in difficult economic times when it is inappropriate to raise premiums.

In July 1991, the government raised premiums 24 per cent and next year, January 1, 1992 they will be increased 5 per cent again.

It has come to our attention that unemployment insurance once again will be raised approximately 14 per cent by the Minister of Finance. When the Minister of Finance was questioned on Thursday and Friday, October 24 and October 25, he said unequivocally he would not give an assurance to this House that unemployment insurance premiums would not rise.

I want to point out to the Minister of Finance that if unemployment insurance premiums go up once again it will further erode business confidence, particularly as it relates to small business. It will have a devastating effect on employees of small business as well as workers across this country.

I urge the Minister of Finance to take heed of this advice and not increase the unemployment insurance premiums—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's time has expired.

\* \* \*

### IRAQ

**Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina):** Mr. Speaker, why is Canada helping to kill babies in Iraq? According to the October 22 report of 87 specialists who visited 30 Iraqi cities: "Unless Iraq quickly obtains food, medicine, and spare parts millions of Iraqis will continue to experience malnutrition and disease. Thousands of children

will die". Already mortality of children under age 5 has risen 380 per cent.

The United Nations with Canada's active support stopped Iraq from selling enough oil to feed its people. Iraq cannot use oil revenues to buy arms because the money is deposited in a United Nations account only for UN approved purposes. Yet the UN restricted Iraq to less than \$1 billion to buy and transport food.

We did not do that to the Germans and Italians when we won World War II. Why impose death on Iraqi babies, some not even born when the gulf war began?

---

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[*Translation*]

### THE ECONOMY

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The minister keeps on repeating that his government's economic policies are succeeding. He never stops repeating that the recession is over. However, we learned today that the gross domestic product has fallen again. If the recession is over, why is steel production falling? Why are sales of metals and machinery falling? Why are aircraft production, gas distribution, construction, fishing, agriculture, mining, transportation, insurance, real estate and sales of automobiles and manufactured products down? Why?

[*English*]

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, the question the hon. member poses is very legitimate but some of the descriptions she has put forward in the body of her question are grossly inaccurate.

There has been a slight contraction in the service sector. The monthly output data is somewhat volatile at this particular time.

I remind the hon. member that if she were to look at the September preliminary figures she would see that growth in housing starts was strong. As a matter of fact, housing starts increased 19 per cent in the third quarter over the previous quarter. I believe automobile sales increased by 9 per cent or 10 per cent. Truck sales increased by 17 per cent in the month of September.