

In spite of this rosy forecast APEC did point to the provincial deficit as a problem area. This underscores the need for all governments to work together to control deficits and debts.

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### BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC

**Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Mr. Speaker, this past weekend Canadians in communities across our country observed the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic.

Our navy had become the third largest allied power with more than 100,000 sailors, including 6,800 women who served in shore establishments in Canada and overseas as wrens.

Tragically, we lost 59 merchant ships and 32 naval vessels, 24 of them in the Battle of the Atlantic, and over 3,000 lives were lost.

Today, to those brave men and women of the Royal Canadian Navy and merchant marine who returned safely to our shores from the icy cold of the North Atlantic and to those who did not return, to those who went down to the sea in ships whilst serving their country, we honour their dedication and their defence of freedom.

Their service and their sacrifice still inspires us here at home and serves as a noble example to those many Canadians still serving in our Armed Forces in hostile places around the globe.

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### THE ECONOMY

**Mr. Girve Fretz (Erie):** Mr. Speaker, because my hon. friends across the floor are usually remiss in reporting good news to Canadians I feel compelled to rise in the House today.

Over the weekend *The Globe and Mail* reported that the Canadian economy grew 0.4 per cent in February. This is consistent with the economic indicators of the last three months, which show Canada's GDP rising.

That is only part of the good news. The other part is that February's surge in output brings the total value of

Canada's goods and services, our GDP, to its highest level since March 1990, when our economy took a downturn. In other words, not only is the recession over but our economy is now stronger than when the recession began.

For many months the opposition has called for an end to our efforts at restructuring. It has said: Cancel free trade, cancel the GST, cancel NAFTA, increase spending.

By rejecting these so-called alternatives and remaining committed to our goals of freer markets, fair taxation and fiscal prudence we have laid the foundation for a higher quality of growth and a stronger economy for the long term.

If I can quote the reaction to Saturday's figures of the assistant chief economist at the Royal Bank: "We are on the right track. Things are—"

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

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• (1410)

### PARTY LEADERS

**Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker:

While Brian Mulroney will travel the globe  
all decked out in a fancy wardrobe  
he will spend a million to find a new job  
won't give a hoot about the loud angry mob

While he takes a jet and the Cadillac tour  
all the while scrimping on this country's poor  
there's a leader who cares and I'll gladly mention  
that that man is none other than Jean Chrétien

Fresh from a tour in Hamilton/Niagara by bus  
veejay Erica Ehm made a big fuss  
over Chrétien at Stelco and Chrétien in Toronto  
and with a man in touch with the needs of the people

While Kim Campbell says she wants users to pay  
for a medicare system Chrétien says no way  
it's a right, he says, it's a right they forget  
So don't place your money on that foolish bet

After being promised jobs jobs jobs back in '84  
and the only one you've had is to mop the floor  
ask if you're better off today than you were back then  
bet you'll say no but will trust Jean Chrétien

You can change the label you can change the name  
but that can of tuna's still tainted all the same  
all I want to do, is ask one simple question  
will you be better off with the same indignation?