

Oral Questions

June, we will have a report from the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board that will probably say the same thing.

[English]

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I guess at the time, the government House leader was not talking from his seat because he was talking through his hat.

Given that the government promised no increases in the cost of prescription drugs and given that the Green Shield report has in fact established that the cost has gone up 11 per cent, will the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs do the honourable thing and order immediately a roll back of the prices charged to Canadians and hospitals for prescription drugs? Will he do that?

[Translation]

Hon. Pierre Blais (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)): Mr. Speaker, it is particularly important to ensure that we can do basic research in Canada in the drug sector. We had no system. People in Canada were acting more or less like pirates. We were copy-cats, and we had no legislation that would allow Canadians to do basic research in the drug sector. Now we do have such a system, with Bill C-22. We are now attracting young researchers from all over the world, from the United States and Europe, who are coming to do work in Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, in fact across Canada, to do research —

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Let us move on. The hon. member for Kamloops.

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THE ECONOMY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, Canadians were shocked this week when they received in their mail boxes junk mail from the Prime Minister pointing out the results of the prosperity tour. The mail says that personal taxes have been cut as a result of the budget.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Riis: It says that within three years the deficit will virtually be eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday StatsCanada said that income taxes have gone up. The Minister of Finance's own department said that he will not meet his deficit targets for this year, and the chief economist for the Toronto-Dominion Bank said the deficit could be as high as \$38 billion.

My question for the Prime Minister is, why is this government sending out this prosperity fairy-tale to all Canadian households?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, I have the document right here to which my hon. friend was referring. It says: "Over the past months, in consultations across the country, Canadians have asked for a number of things". We have said precisely what has happened. In one instance it says "cut taxes" and in the recent budget my colleague, the Minister of Finance, cut personal income taxes, putting \$500 million in taxpayers' hands this year and \$1.2 billion next year.

Those are the facts. That is what this document is reporting, the facts about how the budget is responding to Canadians' requests and how the budget is responding to the needs of the economy, so that the performance of the economy will improve in future years.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, Canadians know that this is the government of tax, tax, tax. They know their taxes have gone up.

It says that "by the mid-1990s the deficit will be virtually eliminated and the government can start paying off the national debt".

That is absolutely false, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Prime Minister why he is continuing to send out this misleading advertising. He is actually misleading households right across Canada. Will he withdraw this and apologize to the people of Canada for misleading advertising?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, the information is not at all misleading. What this document points out very clearly is that it is the socialist governments in the provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Ontario which are the governments of high personal and high corporate taxes. It is the federal government, a Conservative government, that is the government of low taxes.