

As my colleague, the Minister of Finance, pointed out in his budget last week, Canada has had the strongest performing economy among Western industrialized nations.

- We have been number one in economic growth since 1984.
- We have been number one in employment growth -- more than 1,150,000 jobs created since we came to office. And contrary to the stammerings of the opposition, most of those jobs have been full-time, well-paid jobs in every sector of the economy.
- Here in B.C., 140,000 jobs have been created since September 1984. Five times as many jobs have been created in B.C. in the 40 months since September 1984 than were created in total between the 1980 and 1984 elections. And again most of those jobs are full-time, well-paid jobs in construction, the resource sector, investment, manufacturing and high tech industries.
- Economic growth last year was more evenly balanced -- unemployment actually dropped in all 10 provinces.
- Here in B.C., unemployment has dropped from 15.1% at the time of the election to 10.1%, a drop of 5 percentage points.
- Mortgage rates have dropped 3 percentage points. Saving homeowners \$1,200 per year on a \$50,000 mortgage and helping businesses to expand throughout the country. Housing starts in 1987 were up 40% compared to 1986, up 64% compared to 1985, and up 92% compared to 1984.
- Inflation is in check. Here in B.C., inflation is below the national average of 4.2% with Vancouver recording one of the lowest rates in the country at 3.7%. Lower inflation means lower prices for all consumers and particularly helps seniors and lower-income Canadians.
- And, both consumers and business are displaying more confidence than ever.

Now, we as a government cannot claim credit for all this great economic news.

The Government of Canada did not export all those goods and services.

The Government of Canada did not invest all that money.