[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The Chair has taken note of the government Whip's comments.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*Translation*]

SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 81 — THE RECESSION

Mr. Douglas Young (Acadie—Bathurst):

That this House condemn this government for planning and implementing the first ever made–in–Canada recession.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to establish from the outset that this governement planned and implemented a recession whose existence is recognized by practically all Canadians.

In the past few weeks, the minister said repeatedly that in his February Budget he projected data that clearly showed we would be Ain a slowdown—to use the minister's words—that the unemployment rate would increase and that the country's economic growth rate would drop or disappear altogether. This means, Mr. Speaker—and this is very a very important point—that, as we said in our motion, the government indeed planned and implemented this recession.

What Canadians deplore, however, is the fact that the Minister of Finance apparently cannot accept that his planning led to the results desired by this government—a recession, in other words.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that in this debate, it would be important to hear the Minister of Finance agree, once and for all, and this would at least be a start towards solving the problem, that Canada is indeed in a full–fledged recession.

We need only listen to the comments of all partners in our economy. We could ask about inflation in Quebec: what inflation? The Minister of Finance steadfastly refuses to accept there is such a thing, although we are aware of it and its existence has been recognized, for instance, by the Conference Board of Canada, the Mouvement Desjardins, the National Bank of Canada and a wide range of representatives from the business community, labour, consumers and by Canadians in general.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker, what we believe Canadians are more concerned about than anything else at this point, recognizing that there is very little that individual Canadians and even corporations can do about the recession in which we find ourselves, is the refusal of the minister to recognize the fact that we are, in fact, in a recession and, as our motion states, it is a made–in–Canada recession.

I listened with great interest to the comments of the Minister of Finance during Question Period, when he said such things as "cast your mind back to 1981–82" and commented on the high rates of interest and the high rates of inflation that Canada was experiencing at that time.

The Minister of Finance knows well that it was a phenomenon that was rampant throughout the western world. We had situations in the United States and in western Europe where inflation and interest rates were going through the roof.

The Minister of Finance pointed out to the Leader of the Opposition that there was a discrepancy in the position taken by the Leader of the Opposition, in his capacity then as a member of the government, and what he is saying now. I would like to point out that it is awful dangerous, as I am sure the Minister of Finance is aware, to comment on what was said 10 years ago, when the Minister of Finance was occupying a somewhat different position himself at that point in time.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): But I did not make that type of comment.

Mr. Young (Acadie—Bathurst): Let me quote the Minister of Finance in 1984. He said this: "What we remember most about that period", speaking about the early eighties, "is the fact that interest rates were far higher than they should have been. Interest rates skyrocketed during that period to between 22 per cent and 25 per cent. The reason was largely because of what went on in the United States and the very high interest rate policy followed there".

Mr. Speaker, this is what Canadians are getting extremely upset about. It is that we do not seem, as politicians, regardless of which side of the House we sit on, to remember what we said not all that long ago. We are very quick to point out some conflicts perhaps in