

Government has a science and research development policy at all. There are priorities other than the space station. Sexy as it is, it is about time the Government practised safe sex.

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THE ECONOMY

IMPORTANCE OF REDUCING DEFICIT

Mr. Brian O'Kurley (Elk Island): Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest challenges facing Canadians today is the federal deficit. If we are to continue to provide support for our senior citizens and our farmers in the riding of Elk Island, and in other parts of Canada, then we must stand together in our fight against the deficit.

The annual deficit has fallen from a record \$38.3 billion in the fiscal year 1984-85 to \$28.9 billion last year. By 1993 the deficit will be cut to \$15 billion.

To succeed in this challenge we must unite as a nation. Let us work together, all Canadians from sea to sea, to build for the future in order that our children can live in a stronger Canada.

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HOUSING

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX ON NEW HOUSES

Mr. Joe Fontana (London East): Mr. Speaker, the Government's Budget has been a disaster for the housing sector. The announcement that the federal goods and services tax will be extended to the purchase of new houses will put the capacity of buying a new house even further out of reach for average Canadian families. The goods and services tax could add thousands of dollars to the price of an average new house. What about that dream of owning a home, Mr. Minister?

Two weeks ago the housing Minister stated that he would help. Where is the help for ordinary Canadians in the Budget? Where in the Budget are the homeless to look for help? Where is the help for those who dream about owning a house, but see that dream taxed to death? Where in the Budget are those looking for affordable accommodation to look for help?

The Government promises affordable housing. Affordable housing for whom, Mr. Speaker? For ordinary families? Or does the Minister really mean that there will be housing for those who can afford to pay the price? Where is the housing Minister's help? Canadians have the right to know the truth.

Oral Questions

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AGRICULTURE

CONTROL OVER IMPORTATION OF BROILER HATCHING CHICKS AND EGGS

Mr. Ken Monteith (Elgin): Mr. Speaker, the announcement by the Minister of International Trade that broiler hatching chicks and eggs will be placed on the import control list effective today is welcomed by producers in this industry.

Farmers have expressed concern to the Government about increasing imports, and the timely response of the Government will ensure that the Canadian broiler hatching egg and chick industry remains viable.

This action shows that the Government is prepared to use the provisions under Article 11 of the GATT to restrict agricultural imports in support of domestic supply management programs.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE ECONOMY

FORECAST BY CONFERENCE BOARD

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. On Friday, the Conference Board of Canada, a leading and respected private sector economic forecaster, issued its latest study of the economy in which it looked at the Budget of the Government. After looking at the Budget it stated: "The risk of recession is enhanced by the Budget". It also stated: "Businesses should prepare contingency plans for a recession".

In light of this forecast, how can the Prime Minister and the Government persist in presenting to the House and to the country a Budget which, in the eyes of a respected group such as the Conference Board, is leading us inevitably into a recession and all the harm that this will bring to consumers, workers, farmers, and Canadians generally? Why is the Government persisting in this damaging course for our country?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, we have a high regard for the Conference Board and other economic think-tanks around town and around the country.

However, it is the responsibility of the Government of Canada to chart courses that we think will be of benefit to the nation. Clearly, a failure to address the debt would only have led to higher interest rates, higher inflation,