

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member but his time has expired.

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THE ECONOMY

INCREASED INVESTMENT FORECAST FOR 1986

Mr. Bill Gottselig (Moose Jaw): Mr. Speaker, the latest survey of financial and economic forecasters of the Conference Board of Canada reveals that business investment spending is expected to continue its strong 1985 performance into 1986. According to the findings of this independent survey, growth of 6.6 per cent in general investment spending is expected in 1986. This represents an increase over the already high level of growth we experienced in 1985.

In addition, several trends are evident in the responses to the survey in the past few quarters. To start off, the average growth forecast for the GNE in 1985 has been steadily rising over the last four surveys and now averages 4 per cent. Second, the average growth rate projection for the GNE in 1986 has been increasing and now rests at 2.9 per cent, compared with 2.6 per cent in the fall survey. Finally, the over-all economic picture is improving steadily in the eyes of the forecasters.

All of these positive indicators are music to the ears of Canadians. Unfortunately, some people do not want to hear good news and I am referring to Hon. Members of the Opposition whose shortsightedness almost destroyed our economy. It is time that the Opposition starts giving credit where credit is due instead of constantly engaging in mud-slinging and backbiting.

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CANADA PENSION PLAN

ANNOUNCED IMPROVEMENT IN BENEFITS

Mr. David Daubney (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise today to congratulate both the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp) on the recently announced improvements to the Canada Pension Plan.

In exchange for slightly higher contributions, more Canadians than ever will be eligible for CPP benefits at an earlier age, and with less restrictions. I am especially pleased that survivor benefits will no longer be terminated if a widow or widower remarries. I am told that approximately 35,000 Canadians will have benefits reinstated as a result of this change. The disabled will have the base rate of their pensions increased by \$136 per month, and I understand that 140,000 Canadians will benefit.

These two changes alone will result in 175,000 Canadians receiving more generous benefits, to say nothing of the many Canadians who will be eligible for CPP benefits five years earlier, at age 60, rather than at age 65, with appropriate actuarial adjustments.

Oral Questions

As a supporter of this Government I am very proud that, after little more than a year in office, the federal Government, with unanimous provincial support, has introduced the most generous and comprehensive amendments to the Canada Pension Plan since that Plan was enacted some 20 years ago.

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ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA LIMITED

EFFECT OF BUDGETARY CUT-BACKS

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke): Mr. Speaker, some people are very busy and get a lot done. Some others use the excuse that they are too busy so they do not have to do certain things. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) falls into the latter category.

A delegation of business people, labour and professional researchers from the Deep River area have been trying to have a meeting with the Minister ever since the disastrous cuts within AECL were announced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) in his Budget of May 23.

The Government cut the R and D budget of AECL by \$100 million and robbed the company of another \$70 million of retained earnings. The former Minister of Science and Technology stated in this House two days ago that money was not being taken out. He cannot even read the Government's own Budget Papers because it is right there in very plain language.

The Minister of Energy keeps saying that she does not have time to meet with the delegation from the Deep River-Chalk River area. I am amazed that she even had the time to approve the cuts. However, she obviously was around then. This is a case of hit and run or, even worse, a case of hit and then hide. I wrote a follow-up letter to the Minister on August 1 asking for a meeting with her on behalf of the business community, labour representatives and research scientists. To date my letter has not even been acknowledged. The Minister is still saying she does not have time to meet with people in the community.

This is a perfect example of how this so-called open Government works. Ministers do not have time for small business people, labour or scientific researchers in Canada. Because of the manner in which she is—

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member's time has expired.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

CROWN CORPORATIONS

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE EXAMINATIONS OF FUTURE SALES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Perhaps you will allow me, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself