

S.O. 22

[Translation]

THE ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Mr. Barry Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I think we should look at the Canadian economy in its proper perspective. The information produced last week by Statistics Canada clearly shows that our economic growth rate was nearly six per cent during the last three months of 1985.

[English]

Our gross domestic product rose .7 per cent in November, following a similar gain in October. It was the eighth consecutive month in which real output grew. The November gains were attributable to strong growth in construction, manufacturing, and trade. Capital goods industries experienced a great month as their output climbed 1.7 per cent. Manufacturers of machinery and equipment raised their output by 3.2 per cent. A surge in home building pushed construction growth up 2.7 per cent. "There is continuing strength everywhere in the domestic economy", indicated the Conference Board of Canada, and the board described these numbers as "absolutely fantastic".

[Translation]

The central theme of the Speech from the Throne in November 1984 was economic renewal. The Government is on the right track.

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YOUTHREQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT REVERSE DECISION ON
KATIMAVIK PROGRAM

Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont): Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to deplore the fact that the activities of the Katimavik program have been stopped.

Katimavik was the only program providing periods of training for young people between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one. These periods were an opportunity for them to think for themselves, to take on responsibilities, to turn their lives around and discover the values of solidarity and personal initiative.

I see the demise of Katimavik as a distressing example of the Conservative Government's anti-social concerns. There is a prevalence of economic concerns at the expense of socially-oriented considerations, and this is a part of its program the Conservative party failed to reveal to the Canadian people during the last election campaign.

It is ridiculous to consider Katimavik in terms of the cost and benefit to the Canadian people, in other words, in purely economic terms. Katimavik was, until yesterday, undergoing a scientific assessment by the Department of Secretary of State.

We have not had a chance to see the results, and now the Conservative Government decides to end the program.

I believe the decision announced yesterday is unacceptable. As a result, many opportunities for young people who have no other alternative today than welfare and unemployment insurance have disappeared.

I therefore ask the Government to reverse this decision.

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[English]

CHILDREN

ESTABLISHMENT OF MISSING CHILDREN RESEARCH PROJECT

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, this week the Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty) announced a major missing children research project in my riding of Edmonton East as a first step in dealing with the serious problem of missing children. The project, in co-operation with the Edmonton police, will bring together community groups, Governments, and the private sector to improve methods of prevention and investigation for locating missing children.

Missing children is a serious problem of which we should all be aware. We should all be dedicated to finding new avenues to reunite these children with their parents. While it is recognized that the jurisdiction for this problem remains under provincial and local authority, the federal Government has committed itself to contributing to the solution.

We have established a central registry on missing children which will be linked to every police department in Canada. The Minister has proposed the establishment of a Canadian information centre on missing children for the exchange of information about effective programs and the co-ordination of efforts across Canada. The Government has also proposed a national missing children's day in recognition of this ongoing problem. We also have suggested a national conference at which experts can discuss better ways of responding to this national tragedy.

● (1110)

Mr. Speaker, the Solicitor General (Mr. Beatty) should be commended for his commitment to missing children in the quest to find effective measures to prevent this serious problem.

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INCOME TAX ACT

ACCOUNTANT'S CRITICISM OF WORDING

Mr. John Parry (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Edmonton, and again on a CBC Radio interview this morning, Mr. David Devine, Chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, roundly condemned Canada's present Income Tax Act. In a notable display of professional objectivity, Mr. Devine