

A few quick numbers as my time is winding to a close. Motor vehicle production in April was up 7.3 per cent above its first quarter level. In the first quarter real exports were 3.7 per cent above their level in the fourth quarter. In March alone they rose by almost 2 per cent and the Conference Board index of business confidence rebounded to 16.1 per cent in the first quarter after declines in the previous two quarters and it is at its highest level in almost two years.

These indications are in keeping with the budget outlook that the growth will come slowly in the first half of 1992 and will continue to grow in the second half and will rise to 4.5 per cent for 1993. There is no doubt our country has a way to go before we can truly say that we are out of the economic woods but it is just as clear that we are on the right path. That is why this government intends to stick to this course. We will not repeat the errors of a previous government which tried to borrow and spend its way out of a recession. The result of that policy approach is with us today in the large national debt that so drastically limits the resources available to our government.

• (1930)

No, we will not jeopardize Canada's future by abandoning the policy directions we have put in place. They are helping us make a more competitive country, the low inflation rate, low interest rate, a high productivity country that can take advantage of our new opportunities in world markets. That competitive strategy will provide all Canadians with the best guarantee possible for a more secure and prosperous future.

Madam Deputy Speaker: Resuming debate. The hon. member for Mount Royal. Will the hon. member confirm the fact that she is splitting the 20-minute period with the hon. member for York West?

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Yes, Madam Speaker, I have just been so advised.

Hon. members from this side of the House want to talk to this government's poor record and poor public policy and the fact this country is suffering dreadfully. The question often asked is: "They have been raising money and bleeding me almost to death with 34 tax increases over the years and the GST. All that money flowing in, where is it going?" That is what people are asking.

Supply

Some of the things that my constituents are most unhappy about in my riding of Mount Royal are the cuts this government has brought in in a general overview, particularly as they affect our youth, our students. It is morally scandalous because they are the future of this country.

The government has been consistently attacking those kinds of support mechanisms that were in place. Those mechanisms were helping our youth to get a foothold, to get started so they could be the future to support the wonderful country we used to have before all the unfortunate short-sighted cuts were put into place. Those cuts are affecting the health of our society, the psychological health, the social health and the fiscal health and well-being of our society.

Looking at the unemployment rate from Statistics Canada right across this country, we know that unemployment has just increased exponentially. We know that when there is unemployment there is concern, stress and nervousness. It affects the entire family. For young people, it affects their view of the future and any hopes for the future. The impact of the family stress is showing itself in the cranky mood out there right now.

I would like to know what this government has done to alleviate the situation of our youth and our students who are unable to find jobs. What has the government done? It has gutted the transfer payments for post-secondary education. It has cut back on summer challenge funding. It has tampered with the Canada Student Loans Program in the budget.

Our most valuable and precious resource is being wilfully pillaged by this government, the talent, the potential. The government's failure to provide the needed tools for these young people really hurts more than anything else.

Our seniors are hurting and their cost of living adjustments are not what they should be—32 cents or 37 cents is not helping them. The last time around their cheques showed a 75 cent increase. They certainly are not going to be able to buy a loaf of bread and a bottle of milk with that kind of increase.

Seeing the jobless youth for tomorrow really hurts the family and our seniors in this society. I think the government has been extremely short-sighted in that regard.