

cent carried through the second half of 1991 was achievable was certainly not in the cards.

• (1130)

I simply indicate to the hon. member that while we would have liked to have seen stronger growth, there are some signals in the area of housing, in the area of corporate profits, in the area of job creation that would indicate that the modest to moderate recovery that we have projected and predicted is still there.

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Madam Speaker, the minister is living in a dream world. What exists out there across this country among farmers, workers, the unemployed, the poor, is a very tough situation. The minister seems to be in a dream world instead.

I ask the minister why he is not prepared to stand up and recognize that we have had two successive months of decline and this government has to take decisive action to change its policies and get Canadians back to work.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I am not in a dream world. We have had two consecutive quarters of growth. That is the fact. The hon. member says do something. The hon. member is suggesting to spend, borrow more money, spend it, kick-start the economy.

As I indicated earlier, I am engaged in my pre-budget consultations. I can tell you, Madam Speaker, there is no consensus for that course of action. The course of action that is recommended is the one that we are on, getting the fundamentals right, getting interest rates down, getting inflation down, getting the inflationary pressures down, bringing our fiscal house into some order. Those are the recommendations I am receiving from Canadians and I believe very sincerely that that is the right approach for the future of a strong, robust Canadian economy.

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor): Madam Speaker, what I hear from Canadians, business, labour, everybody, is first that we have to get rid of the GST and, second, we have to get a lower dollar in this country. That will put us back on the road to recovery.

[Translation]

My supplementary, Madam Speaker, is the following: Does the government realize how much hardship there is in Canada and in Quebec? Its policies have widened the gap between rich and poor and aggravated divisions within the country. When will the government act and provide assistance to Canadian people?

[English]

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the hon. member says to get rid of the GST. What would he replace it with? Is the hon. member suggesting that we drive up the deficit a further \$16 billion? How irresponsible, Madam Speaker. He says get rid of the GST. That would drive up the deficit an additional \$16 billion. That is the kind of nonsensical suggestions we get from the hon. member opposite.

He is now pleading the case to help Quebecers. I understand that yesterday in the House they were very critical of the very legitimate regional development program that was put in place to help Quebecers. He cannot have it both ways. You cannot stand up one day and attack the government for helping in the regional development problems in Quebec and then turn around the next day and plead mercy for them.

* * *

HEALTH

Mr. Stan Wilbee (Delta): Madam Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare, or the minister answering for him.

The chairperson of the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technology, Dr. Patricia Baird, has stated that the commission will not report until October 1992. Many of the people in the medical field are very concerned about the research that is being funded by this commission, specifically the type of research that is being funded.

My question is how much of the commission's \$26 million budget has been spent? What are the estimated costs of the commission, and when will the commission release a detailed list of the research projects that it has or is going to fund?

Hon. Pierre H. Cadieux (Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Youth) and Deputy Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, I understand that the commission has asked for some research projects to be