

a tax or you borrow against the future by increasing the deficit.

• (1130)

We hear suggestions across the way every day about spending more money. When this government came into office the Liberal Party in office at that time was spending \$1.33 for every dollar's worth of revenue that it was taking in or its program expenditures were increasing at the rate of 14.8 per cent per year.

An hon. member: What has that got to do with it?

Mr. Mazankowski: What has that got to do with it? If we would have continued along that line, the deficit today would have been \$130 billion more and we would have had an \$800 billion national debt if we had followed the spendy-trendy ways of the Liberal Party.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance who should also remind the House that the public debt has more than doubled since his government came into office.

Some hon. members: Shame.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance admitted yesterday that he might have been overenthusiastic when he said that the economy is starting to boom, but he has also been saying that the recession is over. Yesterday, a senior official of Statistics Canada, Phillip Cross, speaking of the current situation said: "We haven't said the recession is over yet".

I ask the minister: Will he admit today that he was also overenthusiastic when he said that the recession is over?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): No, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, the minister has not explained why he has given this answer in the face of the words of the expert from Statistics Canada.

This week, speaking of the current recession, the Economic Council of Canada said: "There may be some evidence that unemployment is cumulative. Many young workers who get trapped in a cycle of insecure jobs and (UI) dependency are unable to break away from it when they become adults".

Oral Questions

I ask the Minister of Finance: What does he have to say to the young people who are trapped in a permanent cycle of unemployment due to this government's policies? Will the recession ever be over for them?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): The hon. member knows all about youth unemployment. I think when the Liberals were in office the youth unemployment rate was between 18 and 19 per cent. It has dropped dramatically.

If he wants to quote the Economic Council of Canada, maybe I can use a quotation that he would find very interesting, because it certainly goes against every suggestion, interpretation and grain that he is suggesting. The Economic Council of Canada said that growth will pick up significantly in 1992 and beyond. The real GDP is expected to grow at 4.2 per cent in 1992 and 5.1 per cent in 1993. That compares with Department of Finance's projections of 3.2 and 4.1 respectively.

They are suggesting that growth will be very stimulative in 1992 and 1993, contrary to what the hon. member suggests.

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THE CONSTITUTION

Ms. Ethel Blondin (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Canada's Constitution, indeed Canada's future.

The inherent right to self-government is the cornerstone of what aboriginal Canadians want to see in the constitutional proposals. Will the minister clarify for members of this House what he presented to the Assembly of First Nations hearings yesterday, when he reportedly indicated the government's flexibility on the important issue of inherency of self-government to be entrenched in the Constitution?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (President of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to be able follow the hon. member who appeared before the Commission of First Nations yesterday on behalf of her party and the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

I indicated that the government had very serious reservations about the idea of inherency standing alone, but that we were encouraged by the discussion that was