

say—what specific program is the Prime Minister prepared to implement and when, to guarantee that children in Montreal will no longer go to school on an empty stomach?

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows perfectly well that the prosperity of Montreal is contingent upon the economic prosperity of Canada as a whole. This is the first step.

Second, last February when the Budget was brought down, we tabled an economic recovery plan for this country based on a number of principles. We had to reduce the deficit, bring down inflation and reduce interest rates, and are making considerable headway on all three fronts.

I may add that since the beginning of our economic recovery, 47,000 jobs have been created, including more than 27,000 in Montreal. So the government is doing a lot for Montreal, and it will do a lot more.

Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the new minister responsible for Montreal.

The minister is right: Montreal is suffering the consequences of the government's policies: an excessively high dollar, cuts in research and development and no manpower programs. Make no mistake: the roots of our national unity crisis are economic as well as constitutional.

My question is this: When will the minister or the Prime Minister or at least someone on the other side finally realize that if Montreal is taken care of, Quebec will be in better shape and Canada will be better off?

Hon. Marcel Danis (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised to hear the Liberal Party ask questions about Montreal.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention three instances in which this government wanted to do something and, in fact, did something for Montreal but was unable to get any co-operation from the Liberal Party.

First, when the time came to establish the Space Agency in Montreal, why didn't Liberal members from Montreal support the plan to locate the agency in their city? Second, in the case of Bill C-22 concerning drug patents, what did these members do? They were all dead against helping Montreal. Third—and these are just

three examples—as far as the petrochemical industry is concerned, from 1980 to 1984, the Liberal government, and more specifically Mr. Lalonde, wanted to kill Petro-mont and the petrochemical industry in Montreal. Without the Prime Minister's intervention, thousands of jobs would have been lost. And we saved those jobs!

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[English]

CROSS-BORDER SHOPPING

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, confidential revenue department studies report that the Minister of National Revenue knew that the GST would cause dramatic increases in cross-border shopping. Yet he has consistently denied that the GST is the main factor in this cross-border shopping increase.

If the Prime Minister still believes that his ministers should demonstrate integrity and responsibility, when will he ask his Minister of National Revenue for his resignation?

Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I have always known that the hon. member is in the dark most of the time.

• (1440)

I was not so certain about my friend, Alan Freeman of *The Globe and Mail*, whose story the hon. member is referring to because the contents of this document were made public May 7 of this year. They were refuted by the Deputy Minister of Revenue Canada, Customs and Excise, when she concluded in her public press release of May 7 that the study represents one person's opinion and does not reflect the view of the department or the government.

Further to that—I am sure the opposition members are not going to be happy with this news—today's *Canadian Economic Observer* from Statistics Canada reports that the GST was not to blame for cross-border shopping because cross-border shopping, according to Statistics Canada, is decreasing as of January 1, 1991 as compared to the previous three years. That is a fact.

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, the issue is not whether the minister can skate around his statements; the issue is that the minister knew what would be the impact of the GST on cross-border