

Since the Secretary of State mentioned the Government's decision to build a Polar Class 8 icebreaker to affirm our sovereignty, I hope that this ship too will be built by Versatile Davie of Lévis, in Lauzon, in my riding, since the icebreaker's task will be to continue the work started by Joseph Elzéar Bernier.

In expressing this hope, I am also reflecting the hopes of the authorities of Versatile Davie, and of Mr. Robert Monette, President of the Employees' Union, Mr. Louis Larivière, President of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Marcel Gosselin, President of the Lévis-Lauzon Economic Council.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope Lévis will have its ship.

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● (1410)

[English]

INDIAN AFFAIRS

ELIGIBILITY FOR NON-INSURED MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, last March the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Crombie) promised that Indians would receive funding for all the people who were recognized as band members, whether or not they met the federal Government's criteria for Indian status. As I said at the time, without that guarantee the right of Indian bands to determine their own membership would be meaningless. Now, however, the Government is singing a different song.

On August 12 the Director General of Operations for Medical Services in Health and Welfare issued a directive specifically repudiating the Minister's promise. The directive reads:

Eligibility for payment of non-insured services is dependent upon being registered as a Status Indian.

This means that the Government plans to perpetuate a two-tier system of health care in Indian communities. The directive calls into question the credibility of the Minister of Indian Affairs. In the interests of Indian health and his own credibility with Indian people, the Minister of Indian Affairs should talk with his colleague, the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), and urge him to provide full health services for all Indian people.

S.O. 22

[Translation]

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

INSTALLATION OF NEW PLANTS—NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER CERTAIN FACTORS

Mr. Fernand Jourdenais (La Prairie): Last month, Mr. Speaker, the Toyota Company announced its intention to build an assembly plant in Canada. The moment I heard the news I immediately invited the company to build its plant in Quebec, more specifically at Brossard in my constituency of La Prairie.

The City of Brossard can offer a parcel of land of over five million square feet and all services required for the construction of such facilities, including railroads, a seaway, a highway just a few minutes from the American border and the airport, and all this for a very good price.

Later on other announcements were made by other companies. I must say that they are welcome as well.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I might point out to the House that Quebec did not get preferential treatment from the previous Government when it comes to the auto industry. I therefore express the wish that our Government will steer those companies towards regions that offer them what they need, and that it will bear in mind the economic situation and the unemployment rate in the Montreal region where it is still very high.

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[English]

FISHERIES

CONDITIONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador): Mr. Speaker, a critical situation exists in the inshore fishery in Newfoundland and Labrador. Because of the failure of the inshore fishery close to 50 per cent of fishermen and plant workers in the province will not be able to draw unemployment insurance benefits this winter. That means that thousands of workers will be without income during the winter months. In the long term, this is a situation that must be dealt with through discussions dealing with the unemployment insurance review and the Macdonald Royal Commission. However, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians need help right now.

I call on the Government to allocate sufficient funds to provide work projects for fishermen and plant workers so that they can qualify for unemployment insurance and at the same time improve their working facilities.

Second, I call on the Government to supply offshore fish at inshore plants so as to ensure continued employment for plant workers. This is an urgent matter with which the Government must deal right now.