

recreational facilities, furniture and appliances fall in the non-essential category in the south, in the north they are regarded as essential?

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I am happy to tell the hon. member that it is not our intention to make any arbitrary judgments about the matter but, rather, reasoned judgments will be made. As soon as the assessment can be completed, I am sure the minister will be glad to give the House further information.

**Mr. Broadbent:** This government has always defined reasonableness in terms of arbitrariness. I want assurance from the minister that the government will ensure that all the goods ordered will be shipped to the people who ordered them, and if there is a battle between the government and the shipping company, the people in the north will not have to pay for it.

I will direct my final supplementary question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Considering that inflation in that part of Canada is normally worse than it is elsewhere, for obvious reasons, will the minister ensure that a small body of officials will be set up to monitor prices in the Frobisher Bay area for the coming six months, so that price-gouging in any form does not take place and the people there do not suffer additional hardship?

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I will take steps to see what happens to prices in that area, but I cannot promise we will set up a small group of officials, as asked by the hon. member. I will try to do it in one way or another.

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#### IMMIGRATION

##### RECRUITING OF UNITED KINGDOM SKILLED PERSONNEL FOR CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

**Mr. Jake Epp (Provencher):** Mr. Speaker, I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The Department of National Defence confirmed today that the armed forces were recruiting medical doctors and marine engineers in the United Kingdom for service in Canada's armed forces. Will the minister advise whether these openings were advertised in Canada Employment Centres and, if not, why not?

● (1427)

**Hon. Bud Cullen (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** I am not familiar with that specific move on behalf of the Department of National Defence. However, I think DND draws attention almost daily to the many fine openings there are in that tremendous professional service, inviting people to make application through the Canada Employment Centres. So there is wide advertising by DND to fill these positions. If they are moving outside without advertising, I will check with my colleague.

#### Oral Questions

**Mr. Epp:** The department says these marine engineers should have either a chemical engineering degree or a mechanical engineering degree. In view of the fact that unemployment among the youth of Canada is roughly double the national average, how does the minister explain that young Canadians are not filling these jobs in the armed forces, and that the department is now authorized to go abroad for recruits, despite a domestic unemployment rate of 8.2 per cent?

**Mr. Cullen:** Having been a parliamentary secretary in the Department of National Defence, I know that there is a fantastic group of professionals who operate our armed forces and that there is a glorious opportunity for young people to get a university degree and join the forces. I am surprised more are not taking advantage of it. As I said, as far as the recruiting aspect abroad is concerned, I am not familiar with it and I will check it out with my colleague.

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[Translation]

#### ENERGY

##### INQUIRY WHETHER MINISTER IS CONSIDERING SHUTTING DOWN LAPRADE PLANT IN QUEBEC

**Mr. Richard Janelle (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the fact that many municipalities and organizations of my constituency are concerned about the future of the Laprade plant, I would like to ask the minister whether new developments have occurred in that connection or if an agreement has been reached with the Quebec government?

[English]

**Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I would hope there would be a movement on the part of the government of Quebec with respect to the proposal I have put to the government which would call for the renegotiation of the agreement to complete that plant by 1982.

The reason for renegotiating that agreement is that there would be savings of some tens, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars in energy costs to consumers in Quebec, and at a time when the Quebec government has itself announced a 33½ per cent increase in the rate structure for electric power over three years it would appear to me they should be a lot more sensitive to this issue than they have shown themselves to be.

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#### INDUSTRY

##### PROPOSED NEW AUTOMOBILE PLANTS IN CANADA

**Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth):** Mr. Speaker, a report out of Washington by the U.S. Department of Com-