

## FISHERIES AND MARITIME PROGRAM

Question No. 699—**Mr. Forrestall:**

Will any activities or projects be curtailed or terminated as a result of the \$7,500,000 general reduction to the Fisheries and Marine Programme and, if so, which ones?

**Mr. Jack Pearsall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and the Environment):** The \$7,500,000 general reduction to the Fisheries and Marine Program will result in some curtailment and termination of certain activities and projects. Specific programs to be curtailed or terminated will be identified by early January and are currently under review in order to minimize any negative impact.

## WAR VETERANS

Question No. 724—**Mr. Howie:**

How many war veterans in Canada have been waiting for more than six months for a decision to determine their (a) entitlement to a disability pension (b) right to an increase in their disability pension?

**Hon. Daniel J. MacDonald (Minister of Veterans Affairs):**

(a) As of November 30, 1978, 888 applications for pension entitlement at the first decision level were awaiting decision for seven months or more. (Statistics are not available for the six month period).

(b) At any given time fewer than 100 pensioners are waiting more than six months from the time of requesting a medical examination until a decision is reached with respect to a possible increase in the assessment of their pensionable disabilities.

[Translation]

**Mr. Speaker:** The questions enumerated by the parliamentary secretary have been answered. Are the remaining questions allowed to stand?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[Translation]

## WAYS AND MEANS

## EXCISE TAX ACT

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Finance)** moved:

That a ways and means motion to amend the Excise Tax Act, of which notice has been tabled in the House on Thursday, November 16, 1978, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

*Unemployment Insurance Act*  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

## MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed, from Tuesday, December 19, consideration of Bill C-14, to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration, and motion No. 1 (Mr. Leggatt).

**Mr. Richard Janelle (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I must say that many things have happened since I began my speech on Tuesday evening. The government has introduced closure on Bill C-14 and has then decided to restrict the time allowed to

us and perhaps even to prevent some members from making representations on behalf of their constituency.

First I would like to recall a statement which the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Cullen) made on September 1, 1978. At that time, the minister explained one of the major objectives of the new amendments to the unemployment insurance legislation. He said: I want to make sure that the unemployment insurance system fully encourages Canadians to look for a job and accept one. I must admit that I agree with those fine ideas but I must also point out that in practice, the minister seems to have forgotten his statement.

It has been said that the money the government will save through these cuts in unemployment insurance benefits will be used for job creation. In my riding the budget for Canada Works has been cut in half this year. Is that job creation? Is that using the money you save to create jobs? Over two years, the reduction will be about \$1.5 billion, I think. That reduction represents about 60 per cent of the budget for the so-called economic boost of Canada.

The minister had announced a budget reduction of some \$2.5 billion, but because of that federal budget cut, because of that 60 per cent reduction in unemployment benefits, a reduction which is detrimental to low income earners, to those who have less than all others, the federal government passes its responsibility over to the provincial governments which will have to pay these sums through their own social welfare or social assistance programs. People do not live without money, like apples in the trees. The minister says he wants to encourage people to find jobs. I agree with him on that, but at the present time there are about 900,000 people unemployment and only 50,000 jobs available. What can people do? Are they going to divide the jobs by 20 so that everybody can work? Are they going to create enough jobs to find work for everybody on the labour market? I do not think so, especially with a government such as this. The government will say that the provinces are responsible for the present situation. The provinces will have to increase further their taxes to cover the increase in their social assistance and social welfare expenses. These measures will again pit the provinces against the federal government.