

Supply

to go there, even though we agreed to defray expenses. We offered to have them come to Vancouver and nobody turned up.

As I said before, this matter was talked about and talked about and talked about from 1982 to 1988. Surely to God we have gone far enough with this thing and there is enough information out there. My files are two feet high. They contain articles and comments that have been made and briefs which have been received on Bill C-21.

If the Senate thinks it can hear more witnesses, let it be selective. There is no law which says that anyone who submits a brief has to appear before the committee. We had all sorts of briefs, I think over 300, submitted to the committee and many of them did not want to appear. They just wanted their briefs to be registered, and we did that. Each day we would append the briefs to our minutes.

However, I just cannot agree that the Senate is doing anything but playing games—and a very dangerous game—with some of the people in disadvantaged parts of this country. It should remember that.

Mr. Rodriguez: Madam Speaker, I have a question for the parliamentary secretary. It seems to have become a pattern for this government on very important issues that it has its members make insulting remarks to the residents of regions where hearings are held.

When the parliamentary secretary was with the legislative committee on Bill C-21 and the committee was in Prince Edward Island, he suggested that the reason there was such a high unemployment rate in Prince Edward Island was because the people were lazy. That is the kind of stuff we have been getting from these southern Ontarians who sit on these government committees as they go across the country. I want to ask the parliamentary secretary if he still holds to his insulting remark that the people of Prince Edward Island have such a high unemployment rate because they are lazy. Is that the position he is still taking?

Mr. Kempling: Madam Speaker, this is the danger in reading newspapers and not reading the truth. The hon. member would have a very difficult time finding those remarks attributed to me. I did not say them at all. I did not say anything like that.

All I said was that there are a lot of opportunities everywhere in the country and these people are not taking advantage of them. I did not say they were lazy. One of the reporters said to me: "Are you saying that the people in Prince Edward Island are lazy?". I said: "No, I did not say that at all. Those are your words, not mine". The member should perhaps read his newspapers a little more carefully or get a better source of information. That is not what I said at all.

What I did say was that there are a lot of opportunities. I read from a list of job vacancies in Prince Edward Island that employers could not find people to fill. We had witnesses before us from the tourism industry who said: "Our difficulty is that we train people down here, but after they work for 10 weeks they quit and go on unemployment". I never heard the term "10/42" until I got to Newfoundland where members of the Liberal caucus—and the member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce was there, we had lunch with him—made a bit of a joke about the 10/42 instead of the 6/49. I think that is the way they referred to it.

We never said anything like that at all. I just think the hon. member, as usual, does not have his facts straight.

Mr. John R. Rodriguez (Nickel Belt): Madam Speaker, I want to join in this debate. I have looked at the motion from the Official Opposition. For those who are watching this debate they now know that Bill C-21—

Mr. Nunziata: They just tuned out when you stood up.

Mr. Rodriguez: Folks do not tune out when I stand up. They can lower the volume but they will still hear me. More important, they can see me.

I think that the people who are watching this debate understand that Bill C-21, which was an amendment to the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, was pushed through all stages in this House by way of closure. In other words, the government had that legislation on a fast track. It is about the only train in this country that was on any kind of fast track. The government pushed it through. Now that it has cleared the House of Commons it is over in the Senate where it is supposed to get a sober second thought.

Neither I nor members of my party have ever invited the Senate to use any delaying tactics on any piece of legislation. Senators have a constitutional right to ex-