

● (1450)

**CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION****BROADCASTING OF SONG LAUDING SUICIDE**

**Mr. Bob Pennock (Etobicoke North):** My question is directed to the Minister of Communications regarding the song "What's It Like To Be Dead". I understand from talking to psychiatrists this song, under certain circumstances, could encourage a troubled or unstable juvenile to commit suicide, yet the CBC continues to air it. Yesterday I asked Mr. Juneau to accept responsibility and resign. Will the Minister tell the President of the CBC in no uncertain terms that he should improve his judgment immediately? Will the Minister ask the CRTC to determine whether the song should be banned from all airwaves?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, Hon. Members know perfectly well that according to the Broadcasting Act, broadcasters themselves are responsible for program selection and content, subject to the general rules and surveillance of the CRTC. Consequently, responsibility for CBC programming lies entirely with the executive of the corporation and its board of directors. As Minister of Communications, I have no direct power of intervention in such matters. However, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you that I will inform the CBC and CRTC executives of the concerns expressed in the House.

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[English]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE****REQUEST THAT MINISTER RESCIND REGULATORY CHANGE**

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. On January 1, despite many protests, the Minister cut the unemployment insurance benefits for those receiving early retirement pensions. On Monday this week a member of the Forget Commission described that action as premature and insensitive. Will the Minister now withdraw those proposals and refer them to the Forget Commission which is studying the entire unemployment insurance system?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, this question has been asked a number of times in the House of Commons and I have pointed out the regulation change was first announced on November 8, 1984. It was subsequently reannounced when the Government allowed one year's lead time for implementation of the regulation. That gave employers and employees a chance to adjust to this change in regulations before it came into effect on January 1, 1986. That has taken place.

*Oral Questions*

We have also referred the whole question of premiums, who pays premiums, under what circumstances and when, to the Forget Commission, and I look forward to having their report.

**PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS**

**Hon. Warren Allmand (Notre-Dame-de-Grâce-Lachine East):** Mr. Speaker, nothing the Minister said justifies the proposal, and it has not consulted widely with the people it affects. They are finding out about it now. Since many of these people have to retire early, why is the Minister forcing them to pay premiums if they can never benefit from the program? Why should they pay premiums for unemployment insurance which they can never receive even though they are under 65 years of age and looking for work?

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the basic premise of the unemployment insurance system in this country, as enlarged upon by the former administration, was that universality of payment into the unemployment insurance fund is required for practically all paid employees. There are many who pay into that fund who never draw upon it. Indeed it is for that reason that I have asked the Forget Commission to take a specific look at this issue.

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**HEALTH****REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF GAS LEAKS IN STONEY CREEK, ONT.**

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Health and Welfare. Will he act now to co-ordinate with the Minister of Labour and the Minister of the Environment a comprehensive study into the operations of Chipman Chemicals Limited, located in Stoney Creek, Ontario, in particular to determine the effect of three organophosphorus gas leaks in the last ten months on the employees of that plant and the residents in the surrounding area? The last leak took place yesterday and hundreds of people had to evacuate their homes.

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, the issue that the Hon. Member raises has also been discussed in some detail with the Member in whose riding the plant is located, namely, the Hon. Member for Lincoln. Not only has the Hon. Member taken a very close interest in it but the Hon. Member has also had staff at the site. It does fall somewhat into provincial jurisdiction. We are looking at what other action should be taken, whether the suggestion that he makes is the one that should be followed. Our over-all concern, regardless of jurisdiction, is the safety of the workers and the citizens in the surrounding area. I take his point, as well as the one from the Hon. Member for Lincoln very seriously, and we are following it up.