

that evidenced every day in the House but those are the facts and I would ask the hon. member to look carefully at what they mean and the implications of them.

• (1440)

[Translation]

Mrs. Christiane Gagnon (Québec, BQ): Mr. Speaker, does the minister realize that he is once again jeopardizing the financial independence women worked so hard to achieve, by proposing that family income be assessed before eligibility for unemployment insurance benefits is determined?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Human Resources Development and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, in my province of Manitoba if we look at the analysis that has been done there are over 600 frequent users of unemployment insurance who have incomes of over \$75,000.

There are a lot of working people who are paying hard earned premiums to pay for those kinds of unnecessary requirements and we are simply asking Canadians whether they think that is fair. Do they think it is fair that people who are raising incomes of over \$100,000 should be receiving full benefits when somebody who is making \$15,000 or \$20,000 is paying the premiums for them? Does the hon. member think that is fair?

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GUN CONTROL

Mr. Jim Jordan (Leeds—Grenville, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. It concerns the proposed new gun control legislation.

Although it means a slight invasion of my privacy I am prepared to register my guns if I am required to do so. However, a high registration fee will reduce the level of co-operation and the level of compliance that the minister will need if he is going to implement this legislation.

Can the minister give me assurance that if there is a requirement for gun registration it would be at a very minimal cost to the owner?

Hon. Allan Rock (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, as my hon. colleague knows, we are even now preparing proposals to bring before the House within the coming weeks in relation to firearms.

Should the decision be to proceed with a system of registration it will only be on the basis that such a system can be established through a reasonable outlay of capital costs, that such a system will be reliable in terms of storing and retrieving information and that such a system would involve an expense to

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the firearm owner that was reasonable. My friend used the word minimal and that is precisely what we would aim to achieve.

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MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Cliff Breitkreuz (Yellowhead, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance repeatedly asks for ways to cut the deficit. We have been giving numerous suggestions over the years to reduce government spending and here is another one.

Will the Deputy Prime Minister show leadership and take action now before November 21 to reform the unbelievably rich MP pension plan?

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has already told the House that he intends to have a package before the House before the end of this year.

Mr. Cliff Breitkreuz (Yellowhead, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, I ask the Deputy Prime Minister: when, when?

Hon. Sheila Copps (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I think I answered the question: soon, soon, soon.

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[Translation]

PATENT DRUGS

Mrs. Pauline Picard (Drummond, BQ): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. Yesterday, I asked the minister what her position is regarding the revision of Bill C-91 on the protection of patent drugs, but she let the Minister of Industry sweet-talk us and repeat that Bill C-91 contains a review provision which will come into effect at a given time.

What we want to know of the minister who is still responsible for health is whether she is in favour of the existing protection for patent drugs or whether she advocates a change in regulations as several of her Ontario colleagues do. We want to know what she thinks as Minister of Health.

• (1445)

[English]

Hon. John Manley (Minister of Industry, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, members of the Bloc Québécois seem to have trouble understanding that in the division of ministerial responsibility some of us take responsibilities where they lie.

In the case of patent legislation it lies with the Department of Industry. If they wish to direct questions to the government concerning patent law they will get answers from me. I hope, as the questioner indicated, I will prove to be as consistent in my answers as she alleges I have been.