

The unemployment rate in Prince Edward Island is higher now than during the recession years. These jobs are badly needed, especially in the western part of Prince Edward Island.

We all remember the slogan: "Jobs, jobs, jobs"; but that has become another empty promise for Atlantic Canadians.

The federal Government's rejection of this proposal is a slap in the face, and it is one which will not be forgotten. The lack of support of both the provincial and federal Progressive Conservatives will be remembered.

This, Mr. Speaker, is not an empty promise.

* * *

THE LATE MASUMI MITSUI

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, recently we celebrated the seventieth anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. This past weekend a veteran of that battle passed away. His name was Masumi Mitsui, and he was a Japanese Canadian.

Masumi Mitsui was born in Japan, coming to Canada in 1908. He enlisted in the Canadian Army and was promoted to sergeant. He was wounded in action and awarded the Military Medal for Bravery.

• (1405)

He was one of 184 Japanese Canadians who served with our forces during World War I; 53 were killed and 91 were wounded.

In 1942, although he was a past-president of a branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, and although he had offered to serve again in the Canadian Forces after we declared war on Japan, Masumi Mitsui was forcibly taken from his farm and interned along with 22,000 other Japanese Canadians.

Since the end of World War II Masumi Mitsui had been working for the cause of Japanese Canadian redress. Now he is gone. How much longer will it take?

* * *

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

EARLY RETIREES—REQUEST THAT BILL BE SEVERED INTO TWO PARTS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, last week, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) said on one of our radio stations it was the Opposition's fault that passage of legislation to provide refunds for early retirees was being delayed. Mr. Speaker, I have to say that this statement is as false as the image projected by the Conservatives. I suggest that the Conservative

S. O. 21

Government split the Bill and call second reading of the Bill as far as the refund for 35,000 early retirees is concerned. The Liberal Party promises to facilitate same-day passage of second reading, report stage, third reading and royal assent, and we will even help the Government deliver unemployment insurance benefit cheques to the 35,000 early retirees, 13,000 of whom live in Quebec.

* * *

[English]

TAX REFORM

EFFECT OF TAX DEDUCTIONS ON LOW-INCOME EARNERS

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, the people of Canada are very concerned about where the Government is going on tax reform, particularly those living on low and modest incomes.

A letter from one Canadian in British Columbia said it well, and I quote:

I know we're all responsible for helping to reduce Canada's debt but it seems a low wage earner is more responsible than a high wage earner.

To illustrate, he pointed out that his bi-weekly paycheque of some \$250 had tax deductions which almost doubled from \$4.90 in 1985 to \$8.90 in 1986. In contrast, someone making a bi-weekly wage of \$1,700 saw deductions for taxes increase by only \$11.90 to \$497.45.

I might remind the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) that on December 19, 1984, he said the following:

We've made it quite clear we want to shift some resources from the upper income brackets, from the wealthier people in this country to the needy in this country, using the tax system.

My question to the Finance Minister is: When?

* * *

[Translation]

VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE MORE ASSISTANCE

Mrs. Lise Bourgault (Argenteuil—Papineau): Mr. Speaker, recognition for the importance of voluntary organizations is increasing in our society. It is estimated that Canadian men and women spend about 395 million hours annually on volunteer work in hospitals, with young people and the elderly, and on recreational organizations, to name just a few.

What would our society be without the contributions of these volunteers? Just think of all the expertise and competence that daily supports the work of hundreds of employees in the public, para-public and private sector. Mr. Speaker, in the past two years I have made several proposals for creating a special committee that would consider ways of providing more