

● (1410)

**SOCIAL SECURITY****GOVERNMENT POSITION ON THE ELDERLY**

**Mr. Edouard Desrosiers (Hochelaga-Maisonneuve):** Mr. Speaker, over 50 per cent of senior citizens in Quebec live under the poverty line. We must ask ourselves what we can do to improve the situation of these venerable Canadians, who have always sacrificed so much so that we would have a country with a great potential for the future.

Last October 10th, Mr. Speaker, I informed the Quebec Minister of Social Affairs of my great disappointment upon learning that, last July, he had allowed the specialized institutions housing these needy people to squeeze out of them most unfairly nearly all of the \$25 increase in the old age security pension provided by the Canadian Government. The reason given was the increase on the cost of accommodation and board.

In a few days, our Government will provide a new increase of \$25 a month to our senior citizens and we want to avoid a repetition of such a despicable and odious action. Mr. Speaker, we, of the Progressive Conservative Government, should like the Hon. Minister of National Health and Welfare of Canada (Mr. Epp) to ask his Quebec counterpart to agree to this.

\* \* \*

[English]

**INDUSTRIAL AND LABOUR ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM****DESIGNATION SOUGHT FOR CONSOLIDATED BATHURST IN HAMILTON**

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Government is aware of the dismal unemployment situation facing many older Canadians, particularly the former employees of Consolidated Bathurst in my riding. The Government has put up a number of Members in the House today who spoke about government programs. In fact the first actions of the Government have been to harass older unemployed people, and to develop a system whereby 700 jobs will be created to harass people between the ages of 50 and 65 who have been unemployed.

I hope the Minister of Labour (Mr. McKnight) will respond to a request by the former employees of Consolidated Bathurst that an ILAP designation be given to that particular industry in order that these workers, many of whom had more than 30 years of service, can finally get financial relief, which was not forthcoming in the recent budget statement of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

S.O.21

[Translation]

**EMPLOYMENT****REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT RECONSIDER FUND ALLOCATION FORMULA**

**Mr. François Gérin (Mégantic-Compton-Stanstead):** On September 24th, 1984, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration earmarked \$430 million for the Canada Works Program, including \$582,000 in my riding where the unemployment rate was estimated at 8.9 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, it is common knowledge that the unemployment rate in my riding far exceeds 15 per cent, but the rate was set according to the then-Liberal government formula, which assumed that people had lost every hope of finding work.

So far, Mr. Speaker, I have received \$4,316,000 worth of applications under the Canada Works Program, which goes to show that Canadians now feel confident that their chances of landing jobs are better with a Conservative government.

Mr. Speaker, I have urged the Minister of Employment and Immigration to reconsider the fund allocation formula so as to make it more equitable towards remote areas and to give people who do not draw unemployment benefits a fighting chance to return to work some day.

\* \* \*

[English]

**FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY****REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY EMPLOYEES OF BLACK AND DECKER, BARRIE, ONT.**

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday representatives of 600 Barrie Black and Decker workers presented hard information which conflicts with company information submitted to FIRA. The only safeguards for their 600 jobs are the promises made by Black and Decker to FIRA and, through FIRA, to the Minister. Without FIRA there would be no chance to save these 600 jobs.

● (1415)

This situation clearly demonstrates the value of a tough and strong FIRA. Only FIRA can assure that multinational corporations do not have a completely free hand here, and that Canadian communities have a voice in their future.

We need a FIRA that will protect jobs, the "jobs, jobs, jobs" that once were so important to the Conservative Party. We urge the Minister to respond quickly to the plea by these workers, and to see to it that FIRA gives them the protection which they need and deserve.