

Privilege

point to a person in Canada who does not receive unemployment insurance after having quit a job for a valid reason I would like him to give me the example.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. In a letter to the government, the Quebec Bar Association mentions that workers who are denied UI benefits will unhesitatingly appeal the decision to the umpire and to the appeal division Federal Court.

My question is this: Can the minister tell us today how many cases are pending before referees and the Federal Court of Appeal in Quebec? Will the number of cases brought before referees in Quebec increase because of Bill C-105?

Hon. Bernard Valcourt (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, most of the time, in about 93 per cent of the cases, the unemployment insurance officer makes the final decision on applications for benefits. Last year, Employment and Immigration Canada received in excess of 3.5 million UI claims. Of these, 35,000 or less than 1 per cent gave rise to appeals. In addition, 80 per cent of the appeals nation-wide in 1992 were decided within 30 days. In Quebec it was 91 per cent. To respond more specifically to my friend's question, there are presently 1,853 appeals before the umpire and 2,300 before the board of referees.

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• (1500)

[*English*]

DECORUM IN THE HOUSE

Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana): Mr. Speaker, my question deals with Motion No. 5 currently on the Order Paper. This motion refers to decorum and respect for each other. Therefore, my question is for the government House leader.

This motion has been debated for seven and a half hours and seems to be mired in purgatory. Can Canadians be assured this motion will be dealt with?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I hope in view of the new policy announcement by the Liberal Party that it believes there should be proper decorum in the House that it will agree to bring this

motion to a vote. It has been debated for three days. I have not been able to get an agreement from the opposition to bring the debate to a conclusion.

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[*Translation*]

LABOUR FORCE

Mr. Louis Plamondon (Richelieu): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration, commonly called the minister of unemployment and arrogance in Quebec.

Yesterday in Montreal, 50,000 people shouted out their disapproval to him. The minister still responds that if we want to reject his hateful unemployment insurance bill, we should suggest something to save \$600 million. Last week, he refused to sign a labour force agreement with Quebec that could have saved \$250 million.

Would the minister be prepared to get the hundreds of millions he needs from those who hide their money in tax havens, as the Auditor General of Canada recommends? If he is afraid to get this money from tax cheaters, is it because these tax evaders are the same people who fund the Conservative Party?

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[*English*]

PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of hon. members the presence in the gallery of Ms. Bonnie Mitchelson, Minister Responsible for Culture, Heritage, Citizenship and Status of Women in the province of Manitoba.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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PRIVILEGE

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO PETITIONS

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 48(2), I wish to raise a question of privilege.

On April 8, 1992 and May, 6, 1992, I tabled a number of petitions in this House. These are petitions Nos. 343-1454, 343-1659 and 343-1660. They contained over 3,000 signatures by the Canadian Hispanic Congress on the subject of the fate of refugee claimants in Canada.