

• (1405)

Whatever happened to the eight separate promises made by the Progressive Conservative Party during the last election campaign to the shipbuilding industry to increase the number of workers?

These proposed offshore purchases must be scrapped immediately and replaced with a commitment on the part of the Government to build these ships using Canadian labour in Canadian shipyards in British Columbia, the Atlantic provinces, as well as in Quebec. The Government of Canada has an obligation to support Canadian workers in this industry and it is about time it began living up to that responsibility.

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[Translation]

### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

#### CANCELLATION OF CONTACT PROGRAM

**Mr. Darryl L. Gray (Bonaventure—Îles-de-la-Madeleine):** Mr. Speaker, not long ago, The French network of the CBC, Radio-Canada, announced that the program "Contact" would be dropped. This program had a daily listener rating of 40,000. "Contact" was the only program covering social and cultural activities in the Gaspé.

The half-million dollars Radio-Canada wanted to save in Gaspé could have been found in other areas, by cutting back on administration and overtime, for instance.

The decision by Radio-Canada to drop "Contact" reflects a petty attitude and a desire to politicize a decision that should have been a purely administrative one.

The people of the Gaspé will not tolerate being used by Radio-Canada in its attempts to blackmail the Government.

Remote regions really need Radio-Canada's regional services. If the Crown Corporation no longer wishes to accept that mandate, its very existence may be challenged.

Our Government's goal is to cut fat, not to cut services to remote communities.

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[English]

### CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY

#### RESTORATION OF PENSIONERS' RAIL PASSES

**Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan):** Mr. Speaker, today is a day of victory for CP pensioners. As a result of the lobbying by CP pensioners across the land, as a result of the lobbying by Members of this House, and as a result of the petitions tabled here by members of the New Democratic Party, CP Rail has informed its present pensioners that they can get their rail passes back.

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In a letter to CP pensioners the President of CP Rail, Mr. Allison, indicated that pensioners can have a choice: they can either keep their rail passes or join the health care plan offered by the company. This is exactly what the pensioners wanted. CP Rail could have avoided this controversy if it had given the pensioners this choice in the first place.

To the pensioners' credit they fought back this attempt to take away something that is rightfully theirs. CP Rail should have learned from the experience of this Conservative Government: you do not do anything to get our senior citizens mad. Seniors fight back, and as they should, and they invariably win.

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[Translation]

### ENERGY

#### REQUEST THAT QUEBEC GASOLINE SURTAX BE REDUCED

**Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Duvernay):** Mr. Speaker, this morning, gasoline was selling at 44.1 cents a litre in Ottawa and at 50 cents a litre in Montreal. That is a difference of 6 cents a litre and it does not go to the oil companies. It does not go to the retailers either, nor to the federal Government. The fact is that the Quebec surtax has not been adjusted to the lower prices since September 1984. Apparently, the elevator cannot go down when the prices fall.

Mr. Speaker, why wait for the next provincial budget to adjust this odious and unfair surtax charged to Quebecers?

When prices have increased in the past, the adjustment was made the very same week.

I have been denouncing this surtax since November 18, 1981, and I shall continue to denounce it until it is completely withdrawn because it was supposed to be temporary and variable. Withdrawal of this surtax would not make things better in Quebec than in Ontario, but it would put both provinces on the same footing.

This is my fondest wish for all Quebec consumers. This surtax is unfair and it has cost Quebec consumers about \$64 million. This money should be given back to them immediately.

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### EMPLOYMENT

#### VERSATILE DAVIE EMPLOYEES

**Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis):** Mr. Speaker, the employment growth attests to the success of our administration. Instead of closeting ourselves with Government technocrats, we made sure that we would have the ongoing co-operation of the people.