

example for the Canadian public to control smoking in public areas.

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SHIPBUILDING

NEED OF HALIFAX SHIPYARDS

Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West): Madam Speaker, the Halifax shipyards have been suffering the malaise common to the Canadian shipbuilding industry but, in this case, the result could be fatal. In national terms, order books are at the lowest point in a decade and employment in Canadian shipyards was down to 9,000 at the end of 1982.

In its quest for work, Halifax Industries Limited sought the \$20 million refit for HMCS Nipigon. Reports indicate this contract may be placed in a Quebec shipyard. The remaining hope for Halifax is the vessel construction proposed by the federal Government plus the HMCS Protector refit.

If the Government is serious about accelerating its construction project for the Canadian Coast Guard and finalizing the Patrol Frigate Program, the industry may be salvaged.

The Halifax shipyards need immediate attention. First, government policy must create economic terms and conditions that permit fair competition nationally and internationally.

Second, the Government must "fast track" its specific shipbuilding projects and programs to provide immediate work, otherwise a highly trained and capable work force will be lost and a labour intensive activity will vanish.

This is not just a local problem. A viable East Coast shipbuilding and repair facility is a national asset and resource, and must be protected.

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WESTERN GRAIN TRANSPORTATION ACT

CALL FOR WITHDRAWAL

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Madam Speaker, the Government appears to be hell-bent on pushing Bill C-155 through the House even though all indications are that the majority of the farmers do not want it. In four meetings held in the Bow River constituency over the weekend, namely, at Carbon, Nanton, Vulcan, and Standard, attended by more than 200 producers and consumers—producers of grain, pork and cattle—not one person wanted Bill C-155 to pass as it is. Ninety-nine per cent wanted the alternative presented to this House by the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) in which the producer, not the Government, not the railways, not the farm organizations, but the producer would have freedom of choice to decide whether the shortfall went to the railways or to the producer. If given all of the facts I believe this same result would happen all over Canada. The people want some say in Government; the people want some freedom of choice once again; the people resent this compulsion by Government, and resent the Government telling them what is good for them.

Oral Questions

I urge the Government to heed the wishes of the people, withdraw Bill C-155, and replace it with a new Bill, a democratic Bill, giving the producers the opportunity to exercise their God-given right to choose and decide how their money will be spent.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

PROJECTIONS OF SUMMER STUDENT UNEMPLOYMENT

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration—I was given to understand he would be here today—perhaps I could direct my question to the Minister of Finance. It concerns an aspect of the unemployment problem which is causing a great deal of concern. There is a consensus growing among sociologists that it is the number one social problem in the country today. I am talking about youth unemployment and the impact it has on young people and, indeed, the impact it will have upon our society if we do not do something about it.

In 1982 officials of Employment Canada projected that the unemployment rate among returning students would be in the range of 16 per cent, whereas in actual fact it was 19.3 per cent. Given the fact that we have dropped 180,000 student jobs between April this year and April of last year, does the Minister have available to him projections of—

I see the Minister of Employment and Immigration is just coming into the House, Madam Speaker. Perhaps I can rephrase the question and put it to him.

The question concerns student unemployment and projections of student unemployment based on the inaccuracy of the projections last year. At that time it was projected that the unemployment rate among returning students would be 16 per cent, when in actual fact it was 19.3 per cent. The rate for non-returning students was 28.1 per cent. Since that time we have lost 180,000 jobs for young people. I want to ask the Minister if he has projections on what the youth unemployment rate will be in July of this year, which is supposed to be the peak month of student unemployment.

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Madam Speaker, I should point out to the Hon. Member that projections are based upon historical trends. The reason for the experience of last year when the figures were less than the forecast indicated, was the general downturn in the economy as a whole. The employment rate across the board slipped substantially in that period. We hope that coming into the summer we will be able to encourage the private sector in particular, as we are trying to do now, to make a greater effort to hire students. That is why we have undertaken a fairly major "Hire a Student" campaign through our offices.