

caucus on several occasions. The Minister is a member of that caucus. He knew about the program. He tells me that he knew nothing about this letter, yet under his Department he gave a grant of money to the Hon. Member for Kitchener. I want to know why. It is in the Minister's documents which he tabled in the House the other day. What is the difference between a disabled child in Kitchener, a Liberal riding, and one in my riding, or in any other riding across the country?

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for me to reply in relation to correspondence to which I have not been a party. If I heard the Hon. Member correctly, he said that he received a reply from my colleague saying that there was not a program within his Department for this purpose. In so far as I know from hearing the comment, it is probably true that there is not a program within the Department of my hon. colleague for that purpose.

Mr. Young: What is this?

Mr. Roberts: It seems to me that if he is referring to the correspondence which was exchanged, if I heard him correctly, the correspondence was accurate. What seems not to have happened is that the hon. gentleman did not write to me with his suggestion, which perhaps he should have done.

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[Translation]

HEALTH

EFFECTS OF BILL C-3

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for Saint-Michel-Ahuntsic (Mrs. Killens).

Mrs. Thérèse Killens (Saint-Michel-Ahuntsic): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. According to statements published in the newspaper *La Presse* on February 22, the Quebec Minister of Social Affairs, Mr. Pierre-Marc Johnson, said that Bill C-3, relating to health services in Canada, might deprive Quebecers of dental care for their children and of medication for the elderly. Could the Minister give the House the assurance that, contrary to what was stated by the Quebec Minister of Social Affairs, the Bill under consideration is not aimed at penalizing children and the elderly in Quebec?

Hon. Monique Bégin (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I can confirm to the Hon. Member for Saint-Michel Ahuntsic what I said yesterday to the Member for Jonquière who asked the same question, that I am very sorry the Quebec Minister, Mr. Johnson, saw fit to make statements to alarm the elderly and mothers and their children. The health Bill does not cut services in any province. On the contrary, it entrenches once and for all the basic insured services that are to be offered free of charge to all Canadians and all Quebecers.

Oral Questions

So, as far as this particular situation is concerned, I fail to see why the elderly are again being used by the Minister, who seems to feel guilty, because if the Act is complied with, there is no penalty and thus Quebecers cannot be deprived of any services. I think it is clear this legislation reinforces the health insurance system to protect Quebecers.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MADAME VÉRONIQUE NEIERTZ, MEMBER FOR SEINE-ST-DENIS, AND OF SENATOR ADOLPHE CHAUVIN OF THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF VAL D'OISE, IN FRANCE

Mr. Speaker: Order! I wish to draw the attention of the House to the presence in our Gallery of two very distinguished visitors, Mrs. Véronique Neiertz, Member of the French National Assembly and Senator Adolphe Chauvin of the French Senate.

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[English]

LABOUR CONDITIONS

UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy-Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. The construction industry is the bellweather of the economic climate of the maritime Provinces, and right now the economic forecast is for continuing storms. Unemployment is rampant and, like a drought, is ravaging the land. What does the Minister have to say to the 83 per cent of pipefitters, the 82 per cent of carpenters, and the 84 per cent of labourers in New Brunswick who only want a job more than they want his neck? Never mind the frigate program, most of which will not come onstream until 1985.

Hon. John Roberts (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I have had discussions with my provincial counterpart in New Brunswick about the problems of training and equipping people for future employment, and about the immediate need for creating jobs there. Early next month I will be in Saint John, New Brunswick, again to meet with him and my other provincial colleagues to discuss these problems.

The third thing I would say to him in reply to his question is that he may not feel the frigate program is one which is worthy of support. But we in this Party feel that it is very important and will have the benefit of creating jobs within his Province.

Mr. Corbett: I can assure the Minister that what we require in southern New Brunswick, in all Atlantic Canada, and in Canada, is much more than talk. We need action, which we are not obtaining from the Government.