

who found themselves sent out to pasture when the company closed down and who now find they are faced with a double whammy because they cannot collect unemployment insurance. Would the Hon. Member tell us whether he was disappointed, as I was, when the Minister of Finance failed to address this important question in his Budget?

Mr. Darling: Mr. Speaker, again, in reply to the Minister's question—

Ms. Copps: Thank you.

Mr. Darling: —I should not really have given the Hon. Member a promotion which, I am sure, she will not receive for some little while. I think the Hon. Member made one wrong move—

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): She should have stayed in Queen's Park.

Mr. Darling: That is right, because there is no doubt that with her ability, she would have been in the front benches, but she is going to have to wait a long time here before she gets there.

With respect to the Hon. Member's question, there is no doubt that there are a good many Hon. Members on all sides of the House who have grave concerns. The Hon. Member is well aware that there is a task force, the Forget task force, which has been looking into that matter. I would be less than honest if I did not say that I have received probably a couple of dozen letters from constituents who are very disturbed and unhappy about the very situation she has mentioned. As has been mentioned by Members opposite, some prominent members of the Cabinet have voiced their concerns regarding this matter.

● (1700)

The Hon. Member has a valid point when she emphasizes especially those people who served in the Armed Forces. What the Hon. Member did not mention, and what I will mention, is that these people did not retire voluntarily. After 20 to 25 years of service they were given the golden handshake, and that was it. So I certainly share the Hon. Member's concerns with respect to that point.

[Translation]

Mr. Lanthier: Mr. Speaker, I would like to know what the Hon. Member thinks about certain Crown corporations, including Canada Post, that allegedly misled early retirement beneficiaries. These are people who took early retirement after being invited to do so by Government corporations that promised they would receive unemployment insurance benefits, although in 1984, the Government's economic message made it quite clear that unemployment insurance benefits for persons other than those who had earned them would cease as of January 5, 1986.

What does the Hon. Member think of Government institutions that misrepresented the facts—there is no other word for

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it—and urged people to take early retirement while promising them benefits they knew they would not receive?

[English]

Mr. Darling: Mr. Speaker, in reply to my colleague's question, I will repeat what I said before. I have very grave concern for those people who were presented with this misrepresentation. I hope in cases such as this that the industries will take a second look and try to work something out. Again, I would like to repeat that we are hoping that the Forget Commission will come up with an acceptable solution. It will certainly be helpful to those who are feeling the hardship now.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have received notice of two questions of privilege. We will deal with them in the order in which I received them. First, the Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi).

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PRIVILEGE

ALLEGED SLUR AGAINST MEMBER FOR BOURASSA

Mr. Carlo Rossi (Bourassa): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. During Oral Question Period this afternoon, when a Liberal Member was asking questions, the Hon. Member for Nipissing (Mr. Mantha) said to the Speaker: "Question! Question! Question! Question!"

I then said to the Hon. Member in question: "*Arrête de niaiser*", which means "stop fooling around" in English, and then the Hon. Member for Nunatsiak (Mr. Suluk) just behind me said to me: "Cool it, you mafia mafioso!"

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier) seems to think this is amusing, but I think it is insulting to people of Italian origin. We do not accept that kind of thing. Mr. Speaker, in this House we respect all ethnic groups. My hon. colleague for Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) and my hon. colleague from York West (Mr. Marchi) clearly heard what was said.

Mr. Speaker, at this stage I wonder whether these are his personal views or the views of the Hon. Member's party, when he uses the words mafioso and mafia in connection with people of Italian origin.

On this side of the House, Mr. Speaker, we respect all ethnic groups, and I think we should respect each other's origins. I will not stand for anyone using the words mafioso or mafia just because a person has an Italian name. Every ethnic group should be treated with respect.

I therefore ask the Hon. Member to withdraw his words, Mr. Speaker.