

\$4.5 million. Could the Deputy Prime Minister explain to these 2,500 Canadians that his Government does not have the \$4.5 million, because it spent over one million on redecorating ministers' offices and because the Minister of National Defence is about to announce that he will need billions of dollars to spend on nuclear submarines? How do we explain this wasteful spending to 2,500 Canadians?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, I assume that the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie will also want to explain to the people whose cause he is defending that since we formed the Government, the unemployment rate in Canada has dropped by 2.6 per cent, down to 9.1 per cent today, the lowest rate in five years. We have created more jobs in the last three months, Mr. Speaker, than the previous Liberal Government was able to create in about four and a half years. I am not surprised my colleagues are reacting to this. Especially since we are delighted the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie has finally managed to persuade his House Leader to let Bill C-50 go through all three stages the same day, so that we can finally reimburse the people he claims to defend.

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT REVISE ITS POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister. I wish he would answer those 2,500 people who are being penalized. What is the Minister going to say to a gentleman who wrote to me that he took early retirement on December 31? In case the Minister didn't know, January 1, New Year's Day, is a holiday. And because of all the paper work, he has to go and apply for his benefits on January 10 or 12. Instead of evading the issue, why doesn't the Minister agree to ask the Minister of National Health and Welfare to consider these 2,500 people in Canada as having retired in 1985 and to refund the four million, instead of spending ten or twelve or fifteen billion on nuclear submarines? Why won't the Minister agree to do that?

Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth)): Mr. Speaker, first of all, I am delighted to see the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie showing an interest in National Defence, because when the Minister of National Defence announces his policy, the Liberal Party of Canada will have a chance to announce its position if they ever manage to develop one on that or on any subject of concern to Canadians today. As for Bill C-50, the Hon. Member will find out next Tuesday that a Commission will be formed to examine the cases to which he referred. And if the Liberal Party of Canada finally decides to adopt the Bill so that we can finally reimburse these people, that will clear up a lot of problems.

Tabling of Documents

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

WAYS AND MEANS

TABLING OF NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister of State (Finance)): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 84(1), I have the honour to lay upon the table copies of a Ways and Means motion to amend the Income Tax Act, a related Act, the Canada Pension Plan, and the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1971, together with technical notes pertaining thereto.

Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 84(2), I ask that an Order of the Day be designated for the consideration of the said motion.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

TABLING OF WHITE PAPER

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 67(2), I have the honour to lay upon the table two copies, in both official languages, of the new defence White Paper, *Challenge and Commitment, A Defence Policy for Canada*.

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REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

TABLING OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO SECOND REPORT OF STANDING JOINT COMMITTEE

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 99(2), I have the honour to present, in both official languages, the Government's comprehensive response to the second report of the Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and Other Statutory Instruments. That report was made on February 6, 1987, and was entitled "International Pacific Halibut Convention Regulations".

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● (1210)

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table,