

who should not be discriminated against because of age or date of retirement. Therefore I urge the Government to remove the August 29, 1985, eligibility deadline for the Fire Services Medal so that as many as 5,000 retired firefighters can be considered for this national honour.

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EDUCATION

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION—CHANGES IN DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Roland de Corneille (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, with universities and colleges in Toronto closed down in protest by administrators, faculty, and students alike, our national Liberal task force is going across Canada for the next three weeks to pinpoint immediate steps the federal Government could take to rectify the grave crisis in the field of post-secondary education.

Why has the Government changed those individuals responsible for post-secondary education twice over the past two years? We now have our third Secretary of State (Mr. Crombie), and our third Deputy Minister. Is it because they were all incompetent, or was it because those Ministers and Deputy Ministers were embarrassed by the Government's betrayal of our youth and our country's future?

Does the Government have anything creative to offer to the more than one million students and teachers in our colleges and universities other than cuts to the transfer payments formula, a freeze on the level of student loans, and proposing to call yet another conference to stall off federal action?

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MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

USE OF POSTAL FRANK BY NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEMBERS

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, a former New Democratic Member, Mr. Anguish, stated in the House on December 15, 1982, that a Member's frank must be used:

—in a way that upholds the honour of this institution. This is not accomplished if Members use their privilege as Members of Parliament, especially with regard to franking of correspondence, to send correspondence which has a political leaning or nature to it.

As usual, the New Democratic Party speaks from both sides of its mouth when just such an abuse is being committed by NDP Members from Skeena (Mr. Fulton), New Westminster—Coquitlam (Ms. Jewett), Cowichin—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly), Vancouver East (Ms. Mitchell), Kamloops—Shuswap (Mr. Riis), Burnaby (Mr. Robinson), Comox—Powell River (Mr. Skelly), and Vancouver—Kingsway (Mr. Waddell). They have all signed a blatantly political B. C. election campaign letter on House of Commons

stationery and mass mailed it, postage free, to British Columbia.

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VIA RAIL

NEED FOR REPLACEMENT OF PASSENGER CARS

Mr. Iain Angus (Thunder Bay—Atikokan): Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday morning I had the opportunity to meet over a thousand workers at the Can Car rail plant in Thunder Bay. They are members of the Canadian Auto Workers and the Office and Professional Employees International Union. They asked me to send a message to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). They believe that it is important that Canada, as a nation, replace its existing VIA Rail transcontinental passenger cars with new ultramodern double-deck equipment. They believe that a revitalized VIA is essential to the Canadian economy.

They also know that their jobs depend on VIA getting the funds in order that that contract for double-decker cars can be placed. Eleven hundred jobs at Can Car in Thunder Bay, along with jobs for Bombardier, depend on the Government ensuring that VIA has the necessary funds to replace its rolling stock.

● (1415)

I call upon the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) and his cabinet colleagues to announce immediately they will provide the necessary funds for this project.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

FORGET COMMISSION—REPORTED RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the reported recommendations which are contained in the Forget Commission Report. We have information which proves conclusively that the Government of Canada is participating with this particular Commission in trying to take moneys away from the very people who are in desperate need. That is typical of the policy and ideology of the Party opposite which is simply that there is no room in this country for weak regions, weak businesses and, more particularly, weak individuals who, through no fault of their own, cannot find any employment.

The recommendations contained in the Forget Commission Report would see \$210 million dumped out of Newfoundland's economy, \$50 million from Prince Edward Island, \$130 million from Nova Scotia, \$230 million from New Brunswick, \$930 million from Quebec, \$60 million from Saskatchewan, and \$430 million from British Columbia.