

course, after he has had a chance to study his points of view.

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[Translation]

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the President of the Treasury Board, but in his absence I will direct it to the Deputy Prime Minister. The regulations that arise from legislation are the tools with which the legislation is implemented. As far as I am concerned, a government that passed a bill 20 months ago and is reluctant to table a copy of the regulations in this House is negligent and does not have its priorities straight, and its priorities may even differ from those of most Canadians.

I would like to ask the Minister whether the regulations arising from the Official Languages Act will be published by this government very shortly. We have received notice of the regulations. We do not have the regulations themselves. After waiting for 20 months, considering that it will take another year before we can adopt them in this House, will this tiger ever have any teeth? Will there be any regulations so that we can implement this legislation in a manner that is fair and equitable?

[English]

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I know that my hon. friend has long had an interest in the Official Languages Act.

The House will know the new Official Languages Act was passed some 18 months ago. In the intervening time the government has been carefully preparing new regulations. We do not suggest that this is something that is easily done. We want the regulations to implement the act. We want them to be done fairly and in the best interest of the public and our employees.

• (1150)

Mr. Jean-Robert Gauthier (Ottawa—Vanier): There are three important areas in the regulations that we are expecting from this government. These deal with the language of service, that is the people of Canada wanting to receive services in their language from this government; the language of work, which gives Canadians the

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right to work in their language in the Public Service of Canada, and equitable participation which means that Canadians can have access to the Public Service of Canada according to an equitable representation.

In the book called *Federal Regulatory Plan 1990* no mention is made of language of work. It has been dropped from the publication this year. Why is the government dropping at this time regulations promised to Canadians on language of work.

Hon. Doug Lewis (Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, I reject the suggestion that the government is dropping anything. As I said earlier, the Official Languages Act was brought in under our previous administration. We have been working at all levels to try to come up with regulations which will implement the act. There is no suggestion of delay. There has been no suggestion of delay by anyone up to now, until my hon. friend came up with his question. This is something that we are working on. We make no apologies for trying to give the best regulations possible. When we have them ready they will be published.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. Ron Fisher (Saskatoon—Dundurn): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Canadians are losing jobs at an unprecedented rate these days, particularly in the Atlantic region. The government could do a lot to alleviate the problems these people are having by implementing and passing legislation on the variable entry requirements instead of playing politics on the backs of the unemployed.

The government would have us believe that the changes in Bill C-21, which is being held up elsewhere, are the same as the variable entry requirements. This is no so and the Canadian public ought to realize it. In 40 of the 62 regions the increase is going to be six weeks and in the Atlantic region alone 45,000 people will not qualify for unemployment insurance.

In a statement, one of the major ministers of the region, the Minister for International Trade, said that what the workers in the Atlantic region ought to do is get off their duffs and stop complaining. When is this government going to get off its duff and introduce