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elections on the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms? Did it demand elections on the patriation of the Canadian Constitution? Do the unelected Senators promise to resign if the people say no to the Senate and yes to free trade in the election?

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

OPPORTUNITY TO MAINTAIN EARLY RETIREMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, more than two years ago, the Conservative Government abolished the early retirement program that existed to help workers 55 and over in the textile, footwear and clothing industries and even in outlying regions.

Unfortunately, for two years, this Government has been unable to reach an agreement with the provincial governments to give older workers who are in difficulty as a result of the free trade agreement and who lose their jobs an early retirement program so that people of 50 and older could have a decent income.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) will ask the Minister of Labour to end these negotiations and to restore the former program that existed under the Liberals, which helped older workers have decent incomes.

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[English]

MINES AND MINING

FUTURE OF WAWA IRON ORE MINE

Mr. Aurèle Gervais (Timmins—Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, the offer by Dofasco Inc. on July 18 to buy Algoma Steel Corporation Ltd. has raised some grave concerns on the part of Wawa residents about its impact on the iron ore mine there.

Both Dofasco President, Paul Phoenix, and Algoma President, Peter Nixon, have stated that Algoma Steel Corporation will continue to operate independently as a wholly owned subsidiary and have assured Wawa residents that the Dofasco offer does not change anything with regard to the future of the Algoma Ore Division operation in Wawa.

PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS

BRITISH COLUMBIA—SPYING OPERATION ON CITIZENS COALITION FOR CHOICE ON ABORTION

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, the latest undemocratic anti-women tactics of the Socred Government of B.C. smell of totalitarianism. They are an affront to those who are struggling to provide options for women who seek medical abortions.

The government tactics of infiltrating the concerned Citizens for Choice on Abortion, in order to steal mailing lists and spy on plans for an abortion clinic, are a denial of civil rights and the constitutional right of assembly.

Since the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the Morgentaler case, abortion clinics are now legal. In Québec and Ontario they provide safer, more cost effective, more accessible abortion services, with counselling.

Costs of abortion should be covered under the Canada Health Act. The Vander Zalm Government was proven wrong when it refused medical coverage for hospital abortions. It continues to ignore the Supreme Court decision by allowing unconstitutional therapeutic abortion committees. Now we learn that the government will stoop to any tactics to carry out the Premier's personal anti-women, anti-choice agenda. It should resign and go to the people for judgment.

THE ANTARCTIC

CONVENTION ON REGULATION OF MINERAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, in order to provide for the orderly exploitation of Antarctic hydrocarbon and mineral resources, the "Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities" was negotiated last June under the auspices of the United Nations.

Canadian oil, gas, and mining companies are world leaders in polar operations.

Under the Convention it is up to the state party thereto to represent the commercial applicant for the purposes of acquiring exploration and production rights.

Therefore, the Government of Canada should expeditiously put in place a mechanism so that Canadian companies can get in on the ground floor with respect to these new Antarctic opportunities.