

*Oral Questions*

process that will take place I am sure will be such that it will provide a long-term future for the shipbuilding industry.

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**DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

## ATTITUDE OF FOREIGN VISA OFFICERS

**Mr. Bill Attewell (Don Valley East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. This Government's strong initiative to open our doors to immigrants to help make this country grow and prosper was warmly welcomed by Canadians of ethnocultural backgrounds. How does the Minister plan to change the sometimes arrogant attitude of foreign visa officers who, for many years, have continued to block people from simply visiting Canada through a negative "screen and restrict mentality"?

**Mr. Ouellet:** That is a good question.

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I must say that I am a little surprised by that question because Members of this House representing opinion on both sides have come to me in very recent days to express their appreciation of the attitude that has been shown by Canadian officers serving abroad. Nonetheless, if there are particular instances where a Member of Parliament has evidence that the kind of high standard of service that is traditionally associated with the Department of External Affairs is not being delivered, I would like to receive that specific information, and I will follow the matter.

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[Translation]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

## MODIFICATION OF BENEFITS—CONSEQUENCES FOR PENSIONERS AND EARLY RETIREES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Employment and Immigration.

Concerning pensioners and early retirees, can the Minister tell us why her Government passed regulations which undermine the vested rights of workers, when we know full well that Canadians want to do everything to improve the economic situation of women, who happen to be a significant contingent among pensioners and early retirees? Why such unfair regulations?

[English]

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member would explain what rules she is referring to.

[Translation]

## INQUIRY WHY GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CORRECT SITUATION

**Mrs. Lucie Pépin (Outremont):** Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the new unemployment insurance regulations governing pensioners and early retirees, and I am referring to a letter the Minister received from the Hon. Member for the constituency of Champlain.

I would like to know why the Minister does not want to correct this injustice, and do so now that most pensioners have not received their cheque since last January.

[English]

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions this issue has been raised in the House of Commons by Members.

**An Hon. Member:** And there has never been any answer.

**Miss MacDonald:** I think this is the first time the Hon. Member has addressed the issue.

**Mr. Deans:** So?

**Ms. Copps:** Are you a teacher?

**Miss MacDonald:** I may say to the House that this announcement was made in November, 1984.

**Ms. Copps:** Thank you very much.

**Miss MacDonald:** It was given a year's lead time for implementation before it came into effect on January 1, 1986.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Wake up, Lucie.

**Miss MacDonald:** It is an issue which has been raised on a number of occasions, and as I have said on many of those occasions the over-all assessment of the Unemployment Insurance Program—

**Ms. Copps:** Order.

**Miss MacDonald:** —and its ineffectiveness and inefficiencies, and the complaints that have been raised about it, are now under review by the Forget Commission, and its recommendations will be forthcoming in a short period of time.

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**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

## ESTABLISHMENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Justice. The Government of Canada has proclaimed the Canada Labour Code changes which provide that "there shall be a council called the Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health". Since the legislation requires the Government to establish this council, can the