

*Government Orders*

Between Glengarry Transport and the affiliated companies, namely Intercan Leasing, the subsidiary company of Glengarry, —and I believe that is the name—there are approximately 7,000 trucks in this country. I hope we do not lose that industry or any part of that company. It is based in Alexandria and has offices in Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto and Kingston, so a number of Members or their constituents would be affected if we lost that industry. I hope and pray that we do not. We do not need any more bad news than we have received already.

So, in closing, I only want to repeat

[*Translation*]

—that the constituency of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell and eastern Ontario need hBelp and they need it now; a 16.6 per cent unemployment rate in Canada is unacceptable and when it happens 50 miles from Parliament, Mr. Speaker, it is a disgrace.

I dare hope that the government, in the course of the next weeks and months, will listen not to the complaints voiced by the hon. member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, but by the voters, the Canadian men and women who suffer and need help.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Questions and comments. I recognize the hon. member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception.

[*English*]

**Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception):** Mr. Speaker, I compliment my colleague from Russell—Glengarry—Prescott on an excellent presentation.

By way of comment, realizing that we would be having this debate today, but not realizing that it would be so short, I did take an opportunity to go over the Speech from the Throne for the 34th Parliament, Second Session. There are four small comments that I would like to make.

First of all, I noticed that we talked about—and I will quote from the speech: “Canadians who fish for a living find their catches reduced by predatory overfishing outside the 200-mile limit. My government will intensify its international efforts to put an end to these practices.” That statement was written on April 3, 1989. The community that was being referred to, the European community, had a quota that was set at 13,000 tonnes

and they set a quota of 160,000 tonnes, which is 12 times greater and their catch was equivalent. I do not have the figures for 1990 but I think they are roughly the same. So, I am aware that the government is trying but they will have to try harder to achieve some success in this regard.

The second point I would like to make note of is that there is talk about improving the government’s record on unemployment insurance. Two years ago, I and my constituents from Bonavista—Trinity—Conception had great faith that something great was going to be achieved.

Well, let me just give you the record. At that particular point in time, as this was written, U.I. worked this way: the employer paid 43 per cent, the employee paid 31 per cent, and the government paid 26 per cent. In 1989 the government contributed \$3 billion out of \$13 billion.

In less than two years, to cover the cost of the government’s withdrawal, which has happened in the two years, for every \$100 of employable earnings from an employee the premium rate rose from \$1.95, when this was written, on April 3, 1989, up to a total of \$2.80 now. That is an increase of 85 cents or 45 per cent.

An employer’s contribution rose from \$2.73 to \$3.92. That is another increase of 45 per cent to make up this \$6 billion we expect to lose because of the government’s contributions. Well, I have not been impressed with the achievement in that regard.

The third point: There is talk, and I quote;

It will be replaced with a fairer sales tax that will ensure the Canadian economy is fully competitive and that will maintain a stable source of revenue to finance essential programs.

I am sure reference has been made to the goods and services tax here and I am not going to waste your time and the House’s time in the precious few moments that remain by saying what Canadians believe the goods and services tax has done over this period of time. It has caused great divisions in the country and I am sure has largely been responsible for leading to the “made in Canada” recession we are now suffering.

My final point, Mr. Speaker, is this: In preparing Canada’s future, talk about education and health. I want to end on this very sombre note and I am referring to the province of Newfoundland and to the five-year freeze in