

*Oral Questions**[English]*

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, the Government is committed to ensuring that Canada's health care system remains the best in the world. In terms of what steps will be taken in the future, the Hon. Member will want to wait until announcements are made by the Government, if any are to come.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**GOVERNMENT POLICY**

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Following the signing of the trade deal, the Prime Minister said on behalf of his Government in terms of the Government's attitude toward workers who would be negatively affected by the trade deal that the Government would produce a massive adjustment program. In December, this past year, the Prime Minister said that the Government of Canada would ensure there would be in place, "the finest programs that exist anywhere", to protect workers and communities affected negatively by this trade deal.

There have been two significant developments since then, the de Grandpré Report which produced no massive new adjustment program of the kind described by the Prime Minister, and yesterday's Throne Speech which targeted, of all things, the Unemployment Insurance Program in Canada, thus negatively affecting the one program that might have been helpful to workers who could be negatively affected in the future.

Why this complete contradiction between what the Prime Minister promised would be put in place for workers negatively affected and what the Government is actually doing?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, first I think it is important that the Hon. Member read what is in the Throne Speech in reference to unemployment insurance. I want to assure him that there is no indication in the Throne Speech that people on unemployment insurance will be negatively affected. People who need unemployment insurance will continue to get unemployment insurance.

The speech says that my Government will propose amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Program in order to improve the program's effectiveness and its fairness.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, the Minister confirmed the point. We in the NDP believe that all those eligible for unemployment insurance are the people who need it now and in the future. That is what we are saying.

*[Translation]***REQUEST THAT BENEFITS NOT BE REDUCED**

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister.

Will she guarantee there will be no reduction in unemployment insurance benefits in the future?

[English]

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, let me assure the Hon. Member that there are three objectives in what we are planning. First, Canadians who suffer job loss will continue to receive the financial support they need, whatever the reason for that job loss, as they have in the past. Second, people who are unemployed want to work. We want to better match their skills with the jobs that are available to them and ensure that they can take advantage of those opportunities. Third, as the Hon. Member has said himself, training is the key to bringing those two things together. Those are the three objectives as stated in the Speech and what our policy will be.

Mr. Broadbent: Once again, Members of the House, and especially Canadians outside the House who can be affected in the future, will notice that the Minister did not give a guarantee that there would be no reductions in the future unemployment insurance pay-outs to groups of Canadians who are now getting them. We know the agenda. It is up to the Government to come clean and tell the people of Canada what it really plans to do.

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FISHERIES**CANADA-FRANCE AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON
NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERMEN**

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my final supplementary question to the Prime Minister, but since he is not answering I presume the Minister responsible for Newfoundland will answer.

The Government has given away to the French the right to fish excessively off the southern coast of Newfoundland. The deal the Government has entered into has been estimated to cost some 800 Newfoundland jobs. What plans does the Government have in place to compensate these 800 Newfoundlanders who will be negatively affected by this incredible deal.