

[Translation]

I mentioned several promises that this Government failed to keep. I should add that not one of the promises made to small business has been kept, and this after more than six months. On the other hand, it is surprising that big business and the President of the United States and others were promised that we would have an Investment Canada Bill, that it was put first on the priority list and that small business was moved down to second place.

A Government that has betrayed small business does not deserve its support.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it one o'clock?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There will be a period for questions and comments after Routine Proceedings. Order please. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21*[English]***PENSIONS****RECOMMENDATIONS OF NATIONAL PENSIONERS AND SENIOR CITIZENS FOUNDATION**

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, recently the National Pensioners and Senior Citizens Foundation, representing some 400,000 pensioners and senior citizens, presented a brief to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson), and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Epp), with a number of recommendations of interest and concern to senior citizens.

Some of the important points raised, which I believe are worthy of support by this Chamber, are that the Government should provide adequate and equitable pensions for all Canadians and increase the guaranteed income supplement benefits; that recipients of old age security on limited incomes be exempt from having to forward income tax quarterly; and that the Government, in co-operation with the provincial Governments, build small, accessible, publicly-owned rental developments, with tenant participation in the management process.

I would ask the Government to give favourable consideration to these and the other recommendations as they represent the views of the vast majority of Canada's senior citizens. This body has represented the seniors well in the past, and if

S.O. 21

these recommendations are adhered to by the Government, I am certain that it will be for the benefit of all Canadians.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION**EFFORTS TO RECOUP OVERPAYMENTS**

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Unemployment Insurance Commission is seeking the repayment of alleged overpayments of unemployment insurance benefits made to approximately 350 Canadians, not because of any fault or dishonesty on their part, but rather because the retroactive effect of an income tax court decision to which they were not parties and at which they were not represented.

In one of these cases an unemployment insurance board of referees has stated that the Commission's efforts to recover \$21,120 from a constituent of mine offend the principles of natural justice. Notwithstanding that, the Commission has appealed the board of referees' decision.

There are three solutions to this problem. First, the Unemployment Insurance Commission can withdraw the appeal and not proceed with any appeals on similar cases. Second, under Section 60 of the unemployment insurance regulations, the Commission has the right to waive any attempt to collect overpayments in cases of undue hardship. Third, the Unemployment Insurance Act itself can be amended.

I know that the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) is most concerned about this very disturbing problem. I am sure all Members of the House will co-operate with her in dealing with it in a just, reasonable, and compassionate manner.

Mr. Speaker: I regret to advise the Hon. Member that his allotted time has expired.

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EMPLOYMENT**CHALLENGE '85—LEAD TIME FACTOR**

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, I want to raise some concerns with regard to the Government's youth employment program announced yesterday. I want to suggest that it is entirely possible, with sufficient lead time and somewhat improved economic conditions, that the direction in the program the Government has announced could work. I do not think anyone would deny that that is a possibility. I do, however, believe that there is not sufficient lead time to allow for that program to work effectively this year. I think if it were announced now for next year, and the private sector, which the Government is calling upon to respond, had enough time to work the program into its hiring practices and to look at projects, it would be possible that by next year it might in fact prove to be effective.