

NATIONAL PAROLE BOARD

PUBLIC'S PERCEPTION OF BOARD'S DECISIONS

Mr. Alan Redway (York East): Mr. Speaker, less than a month ago Canadians were shocked to learn that a man convicted of two rape-murders and an attempted rape-murder had been released on an unescorted day pass by the National Parole Board.

Last week we were shocked even more to learn that the police were placing bodyguards around a judge, a crown attorney, and the witnesses to an attempted murder, because the National Parole Board had released the man convicted of that crime after he served only a third of his sentence.

Worse yet, the Chairman of the National Parole Board admitted last week that his board does not have any clear criteria to use when granting a parole. No wonder, Mr. Speaker, that Canadians see the National Parole Board's decisions as arbitrary, inconsistent, and often downright reckless. No wonder the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Ontario admit that Canadians have lost confidence in the justice system. The parole system must be changed, and it must be changed now.

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● (1405)

[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

EARLY RETIREES' RIGHT TO BENEFITS

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, 35,000 early retirees in Canada, including 13,000 in Quebec, won another victory yesterday. After waiting for a year and two months, the government has finally decided to admit these people were right. However, there is some thing I think the government should know. I spoke to the people in charge of ARSAC in Quebec, Mr. Cloutier and Mrs. Jeanne Lalanne. Monday there will be a meeting in Montreal and Thursday one in Quebec City, and the people of ARSAC, our early retirees, will persevere until they have their unemployment insurance benefits cheque in their pocket.

Furthermore, we are going to decide whether we will continue this action to prevent future Government discrimination against retirees so there will not be two classes of workers in Canada.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

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Mr. Guy St. Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Bouchard) has just acknowledged that the early retirees of 1985 had a legitimate grievance. I am proud of this decision, all the more so because from day one I have been speaking on behalf of the Abitibi early retirees. In a press release dated May 20, 1986, I stated:

Given the commitments made by their employers and the recommendations of the federal Government, justice will prevail for the Abitibi early retirees of 1985. Those who opted for retirement have since had their benefits reduced or cut off.

Since the state has chosen not to honour its contract with them, they can appeal this decision.

Mr. Speaker, I was elected to defend the interests of the people, and this is not the first time I fight for the well-being of elderly people in Abitibi. I appreciate the commendable job done by the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Like an excellent CEGEP teacher, he has corrected the Government's essay.

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[English]

FORESTRY

JOBS NEEDED BY FORESTRY GRADUATES

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, on March 10 the Minister of State for Forestry and Mines (Mr. Merrithew) said:

I'm particularly aware of our country's need for well educated foresters who will contribute invaluable to the continued prosperity of our number one industry.

If the Minister truly wants to see more professional foresters in Canada, he should act now to provide jobs for those foresters who are already trained.

A study of recent forestry graduates from UBC shows how Canada wastes the training and talents of these young people. Of 290 graduates between 1983 and 1986, only 141, or 48.6 per cent, have been able to find jobs as forestry professionals. Twenty-one per cent are still unemployed.

Three years ago the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised to create a separate Department of Forestry. He has not kept that promise. Both our forests and our foresters suffer from this failure to keep his word.