

*Oral Questions*

passenger cars so that we may put men in Ontario and Quebec to work building them?

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the interest the Hon. Member is showing in this matter. I will discuss it with my colleague, the Minister of Transport, when he returns next week.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Mr. Speaker, again we have a situation in which a Socialist must teach a Conservative something about sound business practices.

## COST OF REPAIRING ROLLING STOCK

**Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West):** Mr. Speaker, the taxpayers have already given VIA Rail more money to keep those cars repaired and refurbished than what the new cars would have cost. Would the Minister quit bleeding the taxpayers' money, quit throwing good money after bad and provide the funds for the purchase of new cars? The savings in operating and maintenance costs alone would recover the cost of those new cars in about six or seven years.

**Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I understand very clearly what the Hon. Member is saying about sound business practices. That is what this Government is following. That is why interest rates are down to the lowest level they have been at in 13 years. That is why 666,000 jobs have been created in the past two and a half years. That is why we have seen over 200,000 housing starts over the past six or seven months. Things are going pretty well here, but I appreciate the concern that the Hon. Member has raised today and I will raise it with my colleague, the Minister of Transport, when I see him next.

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[Translation]

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## EARLY RETIREES—REQUEST FOR REIMBURSEMENT

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** In the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration, Mr. Speaker, I will direct my question to the Deputy Prime Minister.

We have learned this morning that the Supreme Court of Canada has unfortunately refused to hear the case of early retirees. The House will know that, in December, the Minister of Employment and Immigration met with representatives of the ARSAC group which represents the 35,000 Canadian retirees whose unemployment insurance benefits have been cut. These people, who unfortunately cannot allege close relationship with the Prime Minister as his friends do and who cannot contribute to the secret fund, would like to know when the Government intends to introduce a bill to reimburse the

35,000 early retirees who were unfairly penalized on January 5, 1986.

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth)):** In the absence of the Minister of Employment and Immigration who is attending a Federal-Provincial conference with his provincial counterparts, Mr. Speaker, I will take note of the question raised by the Hon. Member for Montréal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart). Since he seems to be unaware of it, however, may I tell him that all Canadian early retirees, wherever they may live in this country, can have free access to and conversation with their elected representatives without any constraint whatsoever. Mr. Speaker, any claim to the contrary is simply unfounded.

TIMING OF INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REIMBURSE  
EARLY RETIREES

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montréal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. The junior Minister from Sherbrooke who has just answered a question is not familiar with the system.

My question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. Who in the House determines the order in which bills are tabled? Is it the Deputy Prime Minister or the junior Minister of State from Sherbrooke? Can the Deputy Prime Minister say when the bill to reimburse the 35,000 early retirees will be tabled in the House?

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth)):** Mr. Speaker, to use the same term as the Hon. Member for Montréal-Sainte-Marie, the young junior Minister from the Sherbrooke constituency deeply regrets the tone of the Hon. Member's questions. Admittedly, it is well in keeping with the tone which has prevailed these last few weeks. To be objective and to serve the people who sent us to Ottawa, I shall simply repeat that my colleague, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, is now attending the Federal-Provincial Conference. I shall respectfully refer the question to him, and he will doubtless wish to reply to it.

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● (1150)

[English]

## CANADA POST CORPORATION

DENIAL OF SECOND-CLASS MAILING PRIVILEGES TO CERTAIN  
PUBLICATIONS

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is with regard to the Post Office. I will direct it either to the Deputy Prime Minister or to whomever will answer on behalf of the Post Office today.

The *Canada Lutheran* has been denied second-class mailing privileges. The Post Office deemed that *Canada Lutheran* did not have enough religious content. Such magazines as *Beef in*