

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 21

[English]

## PENSIONS

## LOWERING OF ELIGIBILITY AGE URGED

**Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that our pension age should be lowered from 65 to 60 years of age with full benefits. Not only would this represent progressive reform, but it would also recognize the need to provide dignity and comfort to a large segment of Canadian society who are forced to work until 65, despite having to cope with serious physical disabilities and pain.

How many men and women, particularly in the construction trades, and professions requiring extreme physical activity, continue to work despite backs, legs, and arms which have given way to years of hard, physical labour, yet they persist without alternatives because their families must keep up with the expensive cost of life.

While a parliamentary committee has just urged that mandatory retirement should be abolished, I urge that a pension option at 60, in full, be the right of all Canadians. Let us offer a sense of well-earned dignity to those Canadians whose bodies have been badly bruised by their jobs.

It was a Liberal Government in 1966 which lowered the pension age from 70 to 65. After more than 20 years it is now time to lower the age threshold to 60.

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## COMMUNICATIONS

## CANADIAN TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCE

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, MSAT, Canada's proposed new "Mobile Communication Satellite" will revolutionize voice and data communication across this vast and sparsely populated country. People, anywhere in Canada with a small terminal the size of today's cellular telephone, will be able to tie themselves into the world communications system.

The advantages to transport companies, construction, forestry, and exploration projects in remote areas, and government agencies, are tremendous, not to mention the commercial opportunities in manufacturing the new equipment.

The Department of Communications and its private sector partners are to be urged to work toward an early launch date and rapid completion of this revolutionary project.

## S. O. 21

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

## RULING FAVOURING SPOUSES

**Ms. Marion Dewar (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Federal Court of Appeal upheld a human rights ruling that a law denying unemployment insurance to wives or husbands employed by their mates is invalid. New Democrats welcome this ruling as it was an amendment that we have supported for many years.

[Translation]

Canadian women, especially, will benefit by this decision, because their work has so often been done without remuneration, without recognition. The federal Government has discriminated against women by denying them the same social benefits because of their conjugal ties with their employer. We know that this concept arises from an age-old perception of the work done by women. According to this perception, it is normal for a woman who works for her husband to do so without pay, as part of her spousal duties.

I think all Canadians will welcome the Court's decision because it recognizes a fundamental right of all married persons.

We can only hope the Conservative Government will not appeal this ruling.

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[English]

## BROADCASTING

## CALL FOR AMENDMENT

**Mr. Alan Redway (York East):** Mr. Speaker, condominium homeowners are understandably most upset and concerned by the provisions of the Broadcasting Bill C-136 which discriminates against them.

A single family detached dwelling with a satellite television receiver is exempt from regulation under the Bill. A large nursing home with a satellite television receiver is exempt from regulation under the Bill. However, a condominium with a satellite television receiver is regulated as if it were a profit-making cable company.

Bill C-136 must be amended to eliminate this discrimination by exempting condominiums as well.

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## NATIONAL DEFENCE

## PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY'S ANSWERS

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke):** Mr. Speaker, the answers given to my questions two days ago by