

firms, within the context of the laws at the time, grew to the size that they did, it was cabinet's decision that to be retroactive and break them up would be inappropriate. However, if anyone seeks to buy them, or they seek to sell any of their properties, they cannot exchange them and they will gradually have to fall back to that 20 per cent level or less. As I say, if anyone purchases either Thomson or Southam, one would only be able to purchase, as a bloc, up to 20 per cent of national average daily circulation.

ROLE OF CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. Ray Skelly (Comox-Powell River): Madam Speaker, it is an incredible report, which would only bring joy to the publishers of this country in the Conservative Party.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Skelly: The third part of my question deals with the responsibility to control cross-media ownership, which will be placed with the CRTC. The record of the CRTC on cross-media ownership is absolutely abysmal, and the government has already built enormous loopholes into this new policy. There are at least ten cities in Canada in which cross-media ownership creates a serious problem, according to the minister's own criteria. Would the minister table in this House the instructions that the government will give to the CRTC to deal with situations in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Regina, Hamilton, London, Toronto, Granby, Moncton, and Saint John?

Mr. Hnatyshyn: You missed Saskatoon.

Hon. Jim Fleming (Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Madam Speaker, the government sets a framework for the CRTC to consider when it makes decisions. Then the CRTC looks at those individual cases. The government does not take individual cases and pass judgment on them. I believe that would be inappropriate.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

WARSHIP ALUMINUM SUPERSTRUCTURES

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. The war in the Falklands has demonstrated the vulnerability of modern warships, especially those with aluminum superstructures. I wonder if the minister could tell the House how many of Canada's warships have aluminum superstructures?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, as long as I am correctly informed, I do not think any of our ships have complete superstructures of aluminum. On the question asked by the hon. member for Victoria, as we have on the board before two contractors the question of having six more frigates built in the next few years,

I think it would be appropriate to look into the matter very seriously.

• (1425)

CAPABILITY OF NAVAL EQUIPMENT

Hon. Allan B. McKinnon (Victoria): Madam Speaker, my supplementary is to the same minister. As none of our naval vessels have any capacity to counter incoming sea-skimming missiles such as the Exocet, and as our 16 older destroyers rely heavily on aluminum in their superstructures, will the minister agree that our navy is in no way equipped to fight a naval operation against an enemy?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, the hon. member got all the answers from my officials yesterday at the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence. It was clearly stated that our navy is capable of anti-submarine warfare in a most efficient way, but as far as anti-missile defence is concerned it is limited.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS

Hon. Roch La Salle (Joliette): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Employment and Immigration. Considering the thousands of Canadians who have been receiving unemployment insurance benefits for a number of months and considering the fact that by December 31, according to information received from the minister's own department, some 500,000 Canadians may no longer be receiving unemployment insurance benefits, could the minister inform the House how many Canadians will no longer be entitled to unemployment insurance by next December 31, and does the minister have any solution or form of assistance for these thousands of Canadians who will be losing their entitlement to unemployment insurance by the end of 1982?

[English]

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Minister of Employment and Immigration): As the hon. member knows, Madam Speaker, we have introduced a number of solutions for that problem. In fact just today we announced the extension of the work-sharing program which provides coverage for over 70,000 workers under the Unemployment Insurance Act. Therefore we are able to maintain a number of companies in existence and avoid lay-offs right across Canada.

Equally, we have introduced through the unemployment insurance program a number of job-sharing schemes in the areas of fisheries, forestry and mining, again providing alternative employment for people who are covered by UI. It will extend their work opportunities and work benefits by providing