

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

NATIONAL DEFENCE

REQUEST FOR PUBLICATION OF STUDY ON IMPACT OF SHOOTING RANGE PROPOSED FOR LAC-SAINT-JEAN REGION

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. In August 1985 in Jonquière, the Prime Minister promised to release the results of the impact study on the shooting range proposed for the Lac-Saint-Jean area. When will the Prime Minister finally keep his promise and provide the people, many of whom object to this project, with the results of this impact study?

[English]

Hon. Harvie Andre (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, over the last few months the Hon. Member for Chicoutimi has been talking to the constituents in that area. I am assured by all press reports, and by all indications from the responsible individuals, that in fact most of the fears which have been fomented by others have been reduced. Indeed the level of support has increased considerably over that to which the Hon. Member has referred.

[Translation]

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary. It is very simple: When does the Minister intend to publish the results of the impact study?

[English]

Mr. Andre: Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member knows or should know, the lands in question are Crown lands in the right of the Province of Quebec. In fact the decision rests with the Province of Quebec. Our officials are working closely with the officials of the Province of Quebec, and Members from the area are working closely with interested people. Things are proceeding along smoothly, which I know must disappoint the Hon. Member.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

INFORMATION GIVEN TO EARLY RETIREES—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Employment and Immigration. She knows that officials have recognized that the notices to the corporations and unions were sent only on December 24 and that 34,000 people had accepted to take an early retirement long before that.

Since these people were misinformed, as the Hon. Member for LaSalle has said, will the Minister blame the businesses for misinforming these 34,000 workers or were these businesses misinformed by her Department before the workers involved took an early retirement?

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member is somewhat confused about the processes. Anyone making a UI claim is instructed at the time on how to go about launching an appeal. That has been explained to the Hon. Member on a number of occasions. If he has a specific case about which he is concerned, I wish he would bring it to my attention.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER ATTEND MEETING

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, since the Minister is so sure that she is right, would she be willing to take part in the meetings which will be held beginning next Tuesday in Montreal, Quebec City, Sherbrooke and Trois-Rivières? Can she make sure to be there? The population will tell her about the facts. If she is sure that she is right, she can say so to the 34,000 people involved and they will applaud her. Will she be with us? As for me, I shall certainly be there.

[English]

Hon. Flora MacDonald (Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that if the Hon. Member had specific cases to bring before me, he would have done so before this time. He has not done so—

Ms. Copps: Thirty-two thousand of them.

Some Hon. Members: Sh-h-h!

Miss MacDonald: I wish he would get on with what I think is a very serious matter. On the other hand, I have to say that my schedule is set well in advance. I am sorry that I cannot accept all the invitations the Hon. Member has given me, but he will know that I joined him the other day in Montreal East for a very good discussion—

● (1200)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. One question. The Hon. Member for Fundy—Royal.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE

SMALL SHIPS REPLACEMENT PROGRAM—OPPORTUNITIES FOR CANADIAN SHIPYARDS

Mr. Bob Corbett (Fundy—Royal): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Associate Minister of National Defence. The shipyard workers of Canada must have been delighted to