

*S. O. 31*

mail rates. The program's special social objective is to reduce regional disparity by enabling northerners to purchase fresh food at relatively affordable prices.

This government, however, has decided to eliminate the program and is phasing out its funding. Canada Post, as a result, is increasing the food mail rates to northern communities. Last October, Canada Post proposed to increase the food mail rate by 32 per cent. After protest by northerners and northern MPs this enormous increase now will be reduced by a minimal 5 per cent. This is small comfort.

My constituents in the eastern and central Arctic already shoulder the highest cost of living in this country and many are on fixed incomes. Because of the government's action many of my constituents will go without certain basic foods just so the government can increase Canada Post profits.

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## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

**Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, it has been a long time since Canadians have had an opportunity to witness a spectacle of hypocrisy to match the visit earlier this week of the committee of the other place on Bill C-21 to the town of Canso.

The message I understand that the committee did not share with the people of that fine town who have been so troubled is that right now, today, this very week, the number of weeks required to qualify for UI is double that which would be required if Bill C-21 were law. It is ten weeks plus four weeks because the other place has stalled the VER, plus six weeks penalty from the existing repeater provision.

Under Bill C-21 Guysborough County, including the town of Canso, will move to the Cape Breton UI district. The repeater provision will be gone. The number of weeks required will be ten weeks, not the current 20.

Senator Hebert, why did you not tell them the whole story? Let C-21 pass into law.

## TRADE

**Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas):** Mr. Speaker, during this one-year assessment of the free trade deal, the Minister for International Trade stated that Canadian border communities should get off their duffs and promote our business advantages here in Canada. The city of Cornwall has lost several industries recently with 550 workers losing their jobs. These closings and the ripple effect they produce have shocked this community. However, the workers of one plant, Marimac Inc., are trying to purchase their former employer's business rather than give up.

As well, 150 workers of BASF Cornwall are doing everything possible to save their plant, including calling upon the Prime Minister for assistance. This should tell the trade minister something about the determination of Canadian border towns to stay alive under his government's trade deal.

I believe it is the Minister for International Trade who should get off his duff and deliver to Canadian workers and industries the increased access to U.S. markets which he has been promising for so long.

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## RESIGNATION OF MINISTER

**Mr. Larry Schneider (Regina—Wascana):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday Canada's amateur sports community was shocked to learn that it had lost a leader. The hon. member for Sherbrooke had always carried out his duties with honesty and openness. Unfortunately, due to a minor technical violation of the ministerial code of conduct, he has chosen to resign his post as Minister of Sport.

This was of course an honourable action by an honourable man. In offering his resignation the member for Sherbrooke was upholding the honour of this noble institution. He realized that the principle of judicial independence must be maintained even though others may not. He did what was right, not what was convenient.

• (1410)

I know that all members of this House salute this man of honour and I look forward to the return of this great friend of Parliament.