

*Oral Questions*

[Translation]

**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MR. ANDRÉ BERTHELET, PRESIDENT  
OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CITY OF MONTREAL

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I wish to draw to the attention of the House of Commons the presence in the gallery of Mr. André Berthelet, President of the Municipal Council of the City of Montreal.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

[English]

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF SPEAKER OF THE SASKATCHEWAN  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**Mr. Speaker:** I also wish to draw to the attention of all Members the presence in the gallery of the Hon. Arnold Tusa, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Province of Saskatchewan.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

\* \* \*

[Translation]

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT RESPECT COMMITMENTS  
CONCERNING EARLY RETIREES

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. This morning, we met with representatives of retired members of the Armed Forces and representatives of early retirees in Quebec, who were unanimous in saying that the Conservative Government's decision to cut unemployment insurance benefits for early retirees was unacceptable, unfair and discriminatory. They also reminded us that last year, the Minister of Employment and Immigration announced on December 5 here in the House that the Government would make some changes in this respect. They now want to know why, after two months, the Government has yet to meet its commitment. People have not been reimbursed and no changes have been made.

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Employment and Immigration is well aware of the situation, and he was telling the truth. It is just a matter of time before a response will be forthcoming.

**Mr. Malépart:** Mr. Speaker, people are getting impatient. This problem has been with us for a year. It has now been one

year since people lost \$10,000. It has now been two months since the Government committed itself, and it says we should be patient.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE INTERVENE  
ON BEHALF OF RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal—Sainte-Marie):** My supplementary is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Representatives for retired members of the military would like to know why the Minister, who is supposed to defend the interests of the Armed Forces, is letting his Government reduce or take away altogether unemployment insurance benefits for people who, as we all know, have to retire from the service at the age of 55, and now when they look for another job, they are deprived of unemployment insurance benefits. Why doesn't the Minister of National Defence defend the members of the Armed Forces here in Canada?

**Hon. Gerry Weiner (Minister of State (Immigration)):** Mr. Speaker, as I said before, the whole issue is now under consideration, and a response will soon be forthcoming.

\* \* \*

● (1450)

[English]

**HEALTH**

REPORTING OF AIDS DISEASE IN MANITOBA AND  
NEWFOUNDLAND

**Mr. Jim Jepson (London East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Health and Welfare. It has come to my attention that all provinces in Canada except Manitoba and Newfoundland are covered under legislation which obligates them to make AIDS a notifiable disease. Even though those two provinces have been reporting AIDS cases to the proper medical authorities they are not obligated to do so by law. Can the Minister tell us when we can expect those two provinces to be covered under the legislation, in the interest of establishing a complete and more effective national AIDS surveillance network?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** The question of AIDS being a reportable disease falls within provincial jurisdiction. The Member's information is correct, Newfoundland and Manitoba do not list AIDS as a reportable disease. All other provinces and territories do. While it falls within provincial jurisdiction, the Department of National Health and Welfare and our advisory committee very strongly urge that it be required rather than voluntary.