

New Democrats, he had to resign, sincerely and bitterly regretting having joined a party controlled by extreme left-wing elements who in fact were opposed to recognizing Quebec's distinct character and culture.

The New Democratic candidate in Chambly, instead of hiding his allegiance to this party which despises Quebec's interests, should right away dissociate himself and stop lying hypocritically to the voters of Chambly whom he is misleading by promising to defend their interests and those of Quebecers within a party which develops its policies to suit the Ontario labour unions, anti-Meech sentiment and anti-Quebec and anti-French feeling.

* * *

[English]

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, all Nova Scotians welcome the news that the town of Canso may be spared closure of its fish plant in the immediate future. However, the announcement of an agreement has raised some eyebrows in Western Queens and Shelburne Counties where plants in Port Mouton and Lockeport have already been closed for several months and where some workers have already exhausted their UI claims.

Similarly, plants have permanently closed in Shag Harbour, Woods Harbour and Bear Point. These people do not understand why governments in Halifax and Ottawa felt it was so urgent to allow Canso to jump the queue, as it were, and why responding to impending closures in Canso and St. John's was more urgent than actual closures in southern Nova Scotia.

I urge the government to now increase its efforts to complete and announce aid packages, including community development funding for Western Queens and Shelburne Counties as soon as possible.

* * *

CANADA POST

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, on February 1, Canada Post implemented its commercial freight rates in a manner that increased the costs by 40 per cent to Canadians living in the north. In communities such as in northern Quebec and in the Northwest Territories, consumers will have their cost of

living increased in some instances by as much as 20 per cent.

The Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Government Operations Committee adopted a resolution last week asking the federal government and Canada Post to extend the moratorium on any increase in Canada Post northern commercial freight rates for a further nine months.

The committee also asked Canada Post to undertake meaningful consultation with the people of the north to make sure that the people of those communities are not mistreated in the manner in which they have been by Canada Post in the past.

My colleagues in the Liberal party join me in asking the government to heed the advice of the parliamentary Committee of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Government Operations.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The legislation bringing in the government's new sales tax is the most massive change in our tax system since the introduction of the personal income tax in 1917. This new tax will take billions of dollars more out of Canadian taxpayers' pockets.

This bill is 323 pages. It is full of complex mathematical formulae. It is full of complicated descriptions of what new services are taxable and which goods are zero rated, in other words exempt. It is full of legislative jargon which needs to be fully debated by this House and fully understood by Canadians. Yet the government is planning to rob Canadians of that opportunity by cutting off debate and invoking the heavy hand of closure to stifle debate in this House of Commons.

My question to the Prime Minister is this: Why will the government not allow a full discussion of this legislation? Why is his government even considering the use of what the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada once said when he was on this side of the House, and I use his words—I could not do better—when he called closure “one of the