

He is a member from Ontario. I would not be surprised if he does not agree with all things that are now being done by the NDP government in Ontario. He may think it is the best possible government for Ontario. I would be surprised if he agreed with everything that it has done recently. It has not done everything that I would expect it to do as a government in Ontario. It made a few cuts here and there that were not expected and that were never talked about when that party was in opposition.

Our party policy is that the rate should be 60 per cent at least. Perhaps we would agree to review that as a government to see if there is a more reasonable or a more just rate, but we are not committed to returning to 66 per cent. I appreciate that 66 per cent put more money in the pockets of the unemployed, but at the time the minister must have been balancing one thing off against the other.

We are opposed to this cut at this time. We think to bring in this cut now when we have over one million Canadians unemployed is totally ridiculous.

An hon. member: In the fifth year of its mandate.

Mr. Allmand: Yes, in the fifth year of its mandate. It is obviously a reaction to the policies of the Reform Party threatening the government's candidates in the west. There is no doubt about it. It was badly thought out, badly conceived and now the government is back-tracking and trying to correct the mistakes it made in Bill C-105.

[Translation]

Madam Deputy Speaker: The period for questions and comments has now expired.

It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

The House took recess at 1 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

S. O. 31

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[English]

PUBLIC SERVICE OF CANADA

Mr. Raymond Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, the recent announcement that 1,200 public servants have been terminated by the Department of Supply and Services is to be followed by 1,700 more Public Service jobs to be lost within that department.

This a penny wise and pound foolish Conservative government. It has over its nine years in office demoralized the Public Service of Canada. It has destroyed a long proud record of public service to Canadians. The Tories have not saved Canadians any money with these cuts.

The goal for the Tory government is to scapegoat the Public Service. The goal for the Tory government is to privatize public services to provide additional patronage for its friends already too deeply gorged with public patronage and public taxpayers' dollars.

We call on the government to end this practice of destroying the Public Service of Canada.

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[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mr. Jean-Marc Robitaille (Terrebonne): Mr. Speaker, a press release issued by the National Media Archive on February 16, 1993 says: "CBC sources misled the public on the changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act announced in last December's Economic and Fiscal Statement. This is the primary finding of a soon to be released study conducted by the National Media Archive on CBC's and CTV's national news coverage of Don Mazankowski's mini budget".

It also says: "On the December 2, 1992 newscast, CBC quoted Judy Rebick's false claim that victims of harassment would be ineligible to collect UI benefits under the proposed changes. CBC not only failed to refute the statement in the remainder of the story but has continued to report these allegations as if they were true." That is from the press release.

Canadian taxpayers fund the CBC to the tune of nearly \$1.3 billion. I think this study's finding on the quality of information that the CBC should provide is