

*Oral Questions**[Translation]***MATERNITY BENEFITS**

Mrs. Carole Jacques (Mercier): Today, Mr. Speaker, pregnant women can receive up to 15 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits. If Bill C-21 had been passed, they or their spouses could get 10 additional weeks, which means a total of 25 weeks of benefits.

Mr. Speaker, if the Liberal senators took their jobs more seriously, were more conscientious and stopped playing games in the Senate and ringing bells and tapping their feet, thousands of Canadian men and women would be able to receive the additional maternity benefits they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, could it be that at their age, the senators have forgotten what motherhood is all about?

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*[English]***ISRAEL-PALESTINE SITUATION**

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly condemn the recent violence and brutality of the Israeli army against unarmed Palestinian protesters, some on the site of the Al Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest shrine. While the stoning of Jewish worshippers at the Wailing Wall is of course wrong, the response of the army, using bullets against rocks, is an outrage and tragically, an all too familiar one. Over 150 children have died at the hands of the IDF since the start of the *intifada*. Israel has displayed contempt for international law and human rights by its policies of collective punishment, forced deportations and settlements.

Canada must strongly condemn these tragic killings, support the sending of a UN Security Council investigative team to the area and actively promote the early convening of an international peace conference on justice and self-determination for the Palestinians.

[Translation]

We cannot have a double standard in the Middle East. People who condemn the invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq should also condemn this annexation.

THE SENATE

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, during the last few days we have been treated to a less than edifying spectacle in the Senate.

While Canadians are flabbergasted at the Liberal senators' grotesque and degrading antics, the fact remains that the neediest in this country, the unemployed and the regions, are being hit as a result of systematic obstruction by Liberal senators.

Tens of thousands of unemployed workers in Canada are deprived of training courses because the unemployment insurance reform bill is being blocked by the Liberal Senate.

All community development committees in this country have seen their development projects blocked because of a lack of funds, all because of the Liberal Senate.

Ville de Laterrière, for instance, in the riding of Jonquière, will have to delay its recreation and tourism development project because of obstruction by Liberal senators.

Mr. Speaker, abuse of power has superseded, common sense, and it is high time democracy was allowed to take its rightful place in this country.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD*[English]***THE ECONOMY**

Hon. Herb Gray (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister. Today the Conference Board of Canada in its quarterly report said: "the Canadian economy is in a recession", and it went on to say that a recovery is not expected until the spring of next year.

The Conference Board puts the blame for this recession squarely on the shoulders of this government. The Conference Board also says: "This will be a made-in-Canada recession".

Will the Prime Minister admit today that it has been the policies of his government which have caused this recession, bringing about the loss of tens of thousands of jobs and misery and despair for thousands of Canadian families? Will the Prime Minister begin changing those