

S. O. 31

This tax would have no exemptions so when seniors, low wage earners and, in fact, all Canadians buy drugs they will have to pay this new hidden tax. Canadians have a right to know why the Liberal Party wants to increase the price of drugs and health care in Canada. Canadians have a right to know how much the SHL tax will cost. All Liberals should be ashamed.

An hon. member: Shame, shame.

An hon. member: You are wrong.

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SAFETY

Mr. Raymond Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, the Conservative government would rather save money than lives. The government saves money by having two hour call-outs for the search and rescue helicopters at CFB Comox. The government saves money by closing the most important weather station on the coast of B.C. at Cape St. James.

This government saves money by trying to close B.C. lighthouses; by failing to upgrade lighthouses; by closing lifeboat stations at Bull Harbour; trying to remove the foghorns from Estevan Point; proposing to remove hovercraft from Parksville; proposing to close flight service stations rather than provide overtime; proposing to privatize flight service stations; proposing to remove fire-fighters from Port Hardy airport; failing to provide sufficient fire-fighters at Vancouver airport; closing or proposing to close air navigation in remote communications sites on the coast of B.C.; looking at privatizing Coast Guard helicopters and closing the Coast Guard radio station at Alert Bay.

This government has demoralized a fine Public Service and almost destroyed the safety infrastructure of the coast of B.C. Saving money is important but saving lives is absolutely imperative. It should resign.

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[Translation]

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORM

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, in October and December 1990, the *Canadian Economic Observ-*

er published two studies on resignations and dismissals in Canada.

In 1986, the number of permanent or very significant terminations of employment was 3.4 million, divided equally among resignations, lay-offs and other causes.

It is mainly low-paid workers who change jobs. Two thirds of all terminations in 1986 were in jobs paying less than \$9.25 an hour.

Worker turnover is much higher in small firms than in large ones.

I will ask employment and immigration a question: Before Bill C-105 was tabled, did the department prepare a study for 1991 and 1992 concerning resignations and other reasons for termination of employment in Quebec?

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[English]

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma): Mr. Speaker, Canadian farmers are facing extreme financial hardship this winter due to the lack of this government's policies to deal with low farm prices on last fall's terrible production and cropping conditions.

Two weeks ago over 13,000 farmers rallied in Saskatoon to protest the lack of government action in this time of crisis. They are especially fed up with the endless battles between the Saskatchewan NDP government and the federal Tory government, blaming each other for the lack of action in this financial crisis.

Last week over 1,000 farmers rallied in Lucknow, Ontario, to protest the lack of action by the government to assist them in the face of the worst cropping conditions in Ontario's history. The interest-free cash advance program for unharvested grain has been a bust. Elevators are bursting at the seams, full of low grade corn. The government refuses to give credit to countries that can buy it.

I call on the government at this crucial time to stop blaming the provincial governments and take action to assist these producers and take it now.