

S. O. 31

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

GOVERNMENT NON-INTERVENTION IN THE POLICE
INQUIRIES

Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière): Mr. Speaker, it is not customary in the House to question investigations by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I was quite simply amazed to hear the Hon. Member for Burnaby—Kingsway (Mr. Robinson) say that the Government should have intervened with the RCMP or the Attorney General to prevent charges being laid against journalist Small as a result of the budget leak.

Mr. Speaker, since when does the Government tell the RCMP or the Attorney General not to charge someone but to charge someone else? Is that the true face of the NDP? Should we create two classes of citizens by telling the judicial authorities what to do for some and not to do for others?

Mr. Speaker, I oppose that kind of procedure.

A responsible government cannot and must not intervene in the judicial process.

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[English]

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SITUATION IN EL SALVADOR—REQUEST TO CEASE
BILATERAL AID

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, today marks the first day of the Presidency of Alfredo Christiani and the Arena Party in El Salvador. This event causes great concern for those who cherish human rights.

We have good reason to be concerned. In April, raids carried out against over 30 popular and community organizations by military and security forces led to the arrest and detention of over 100 people. As recently as last week, the national university was encircled and entered by machine gunning troops. More arrests were made and innocent people assaulted.

The violence is not restricted to Salvadorans. In January, after months of intimidation and threats from the military, Evan Fox-Decent, a Canadian aid worker,

became a victim of the war in El Salvador. In the dark of night a grenade was lobbed into his dwelling leaving shrapnel in his arms and legs.

Church groups, development workers, and many non-governmental organizations are demonstrating today to voice their opposition to the tactics of the Government of El Salvador.

I call upon the Government of Canada to listen to those pleas, to cease bilateral aid to El Salvador, and to ensure that Canadian aid workers are protected.

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[Translation]

FISHERIES

SITUATION IN THE ATLANTIC

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Beauséjour): Mr. Speaker, on May 16, in answer to the Hon. Member for Burin—St. George's (Mr. Simmons) who asked him what emergency plans he had to deal with the Atlantic fisheries crisis, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) said that he would appear the following week before the Forestry and Fisheries Committee to describe the Government's special program.

On Tuesday, the Minister finally appeared before the Committee, but he had no plan to deal with the crisis that now affects the cod and crab fisheries, other than the already existing programs, which his own Government has cut.

In New Brunswick, the federal Government is delaying spending its share of the joint \$5 million program created by Ottawa and Fredericton to help the region's factory workers.

The Conservative Government has brought on a recession in the Atlantic region, which was already hit with drastic reductions in cod and crab stocks, and it is wondering whether the existing programs, which it has ravaged, are adequate.

Atlantic fishermen told the Government that there was no more fish; the Government did not listen! They are now saying that they need help and the Government does not want to hear about it.

I ask the Government to stop turning a deaf ear, recognize the problems of all those involved in fishing for cod and crab and act right away.