

S.O. 21

FISHERIES

REGULATIONS GOVERNING LOBSTER FISHING LICENCES IN
NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. George Baker (Gander-Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, restricted fishing licences that have lapsed, or for some reason are not being utilized, should be re-allocated to fishermen who desperately need them.

Over the past several years the number of restricted fishing licences, especially lobster, has steadily declined in Newfoundland. This has happened mainly because the persons who held the licences had died or had voluntarily left the fishery. In some areas of the province, on certain sections of the coastline, very few licences are held today because fishermen who held the licences have not had them renewed.

The tragedy of the situation, Mr. Speaker, is that we have in some of these communities fishermen, including full-time fishermen, who desperately need these restricted licences to make a decent living, but cannot get them. Quite frankly, the present regulations concerning transfers are stupid in that a fisherman must have fished with someone who held a licence for two years before that other person can transfer a licence to him. This is rather unfair to an individual who does not have another fisherman in the community who wishes to give up his licence. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it is a case of outright discrimination because of circumstance.

The Department of Fisheries should review this entire situation immediately and begin a process of reassigning restricted licences that have lapsed on the basis of applications which could be made by fishermen who so desperately need them to keep body and soul together.

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TRADE

UNITED STATES ACTION TO LIMIT IMPORTATION OF COPPER

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, in the face of a rising tide of protectionism in the United States, the Government of Canada has remained largely silent. The latest threat to traditional Canadian exports to the U.S.A. lies with the filing of a petition by U.S. copper producers with the International Trade Commission to limit global copper imports to about 350,000 tonnes, compared to the present 550,000 tonnes. While this move is primarily directed against dumping by Chile and other countries which operate outside of normal market principles, Canada could well be included in the net.

Canadian copper producers have borne the brunt of restricted world-wide market demand and, unlike producers in many other countries, have received no government assistance to keep in operation. It is therefore imperative that the Government of Canada make forceful representation to the United States that it would view any restriction on Canadian copper imports into that country as an unnecessary and unfriendly gesture that would invite swift countermeasures, which we are anxious to avoid.

CANADA POST CORPORATION

DENIAL OF CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY TO TORONTO
EMPLOYEES

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, each year postal workers of Chinese origin have been allowed to use a day of vacation time, or time off without pay, in order to join in the celebrations of the Chinese New Year. This year's celebration will fall on February 2. However, the management of the south central processing plant in Toronto has decided not to observe that practice this year.

In past years Canada Post followed a policy which recognized that many of its employees were of different cultural backgrounds and different religious beliefs. This policy accommodated the needs of its work force by allowing employees to take time from work to observe the eastern Orthodox Christmas and other occasions—Passover, for example. This civilized practice is to be commended, and it is one that has been adopted by many employers in the private sector.

Canada Post is owned by the Canadian public and we want to be assured that it is being managed in the interests of all Canadians. A Crown corporation, such as Canada Post is, should be expected to follow practices that treat all of its employees in a just and equitable manner. The management of the south central plant should be told in no uncertain terms that the decision it has made is not acceptable, and be ordered to rescind it. I therefore call on the Minister responsible for Canada Post to use his office to contact the President of Canada Post, Mr. Michael Warren, and convey this view to him.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

PLEA ON BEHALF OF URUGUAYAN MATHEMATICIAN, JOSE LUIS
MASSERA

Mr. Stanley Hudecki (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, Professor Jose Luis Massera is a Uruguayan mathematician with an international reputation, a leading authority in his field. He was elected as a Senator to his country's Parliament, and was later arrested during the wave of repression that followed the 1975 military coup in Uruguay. His release has been advocated by the Canadian Mathematics Society and the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

Brutally tortured after his arrest, he then suffered multiple fractures. His adoption by Amnesty International and international protests saved his life. He was operated on and survived, with a deformed leg.

The case of Professor Massera was raised with Uruguayan authorities by Members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence when we visited Uruguay in 1982. Professor Massera is today still in jail without trial. His age is now approaching 70 years.