

Routine Proceedings

present their program on how they intend to deal with this crisis. [English]

With that in mind, I ask the Chair to consider this petition and to grant an emergency debate to give an opportunity for the voice of fishermen and plant workers to be heard as soon as possible.

[Translation]

SPEAKER'S RULING

Madam Deputy Speaker: I do not think anyone in this House is ignorant of the problems now facing people in Labrador, Newfoundland and the Atlantic provinces in general, and I am referring to people who work in the fisheries.

The Chair has carefully examined the requests that were filed this week, even and especially today, for an emergency debate on the subject. I do not think it would be reasonable to allow this type of debate today. In fact the Speaker with whom I discussed the matter earlier tends to agree, it is unlikely we could get the answers people are entitled to expect, and I think it would be wiser to wait, but only for a short while, before having this kind of debate.

• (1530)

I do not want the hon. member to see this as a lack of interest on the part of the Chair or failure to recognize the seriousness of the situation, but as an attempt to ensure that the purpose of the debate is served as well as possible. We do not think having this debate today would provide that kind of assurance.

Consequently, I cannot give permission for this debate today. However, I can assure the hon. member, and all members who asked the Chair to consider their requests, that the matter will be considered again during the weekend, and we will be able to resume our discussion when the House meets again.

QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk)

Mr. Jim Edwards (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, the following questions will be answered today: Nos. 310 and 350.

[Text]

Question No. 310—**Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East):**

Will the government direct the management of Canada Post (a) to respond favourably to any requests received from any of its employee union locals to mark the April 28 Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace where such requests are for (i) the lowering to half-staff of flags flown on or at corporation facilities (ii) the observation of one minute of silence at corporation facilities in each of the major shifts of workers present during the 24 hours of the day (iii) permission for employees so wishing to wear black arm bands (b) to consider seriously any other requests for the marking of the day received from any of its employee union locals?

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): (a) During a 1991 meeting between the parties at the national level on the April 28 Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace, the corporation expressed a willingness and remains willing to meet with the CUPW to endeavour to find a mutually acceptable solution to the union's request. No request was received from the union at the national level for consultation on this issue this year.

(i) The corporation is of the opinion that the lowering of the flag is not appropriate for this occasion.

(ii) The corporation workforce is located in facilities all over Canada with operations being conducted on an around the clock basis. Such request would result in a disruption of mail processing and counter activities.

(iii) The corporation has no objection to employees wearing black arm bands in any non-public areas; but employees who have any person to person contact with customers or the public are not allowed to wear these arm bands.

(b) The corporation continues to improve accident prevention Programs which strive to educate and encourage employees to work safely and ensures that employees are provided with and utilize the necessary protective clothing and equipment. The corporation and the union also meet on a regular basis to discuss health and safety matters. It is through these efforts,