

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Mr. Lee Richardson (Calgary Southeast): Mr. Speaker, as we get down to business on the opening day of Parliament 1990, I thought it might be helpful to members to provide an update on just what the issues are, and for the viewers at home where each party stands.

First of all, on the GST, nobody likes it, not even Mike Wilson. But he has the guts to do what is right for the country.

On the Meech Lake Accord, the NDP members like it so much they want two. The Conservatives support bringing the country together and, as Liberal Premier Peterson says, "It really does not matter what the federal leader thinks".

On leadership, the Tories are happy, the NDP have elected their interim leader and the Liberals continue the search.

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HARBOURS

Mr. George Proud (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, Canadians and in particular Atlantic Canadians are painfully aware of the devastating impact that this government's economic policies have had on the Atlantic economy over the past five years. Today I wish to bring to the attention of the House another problem that is hampering the economy of my own riding of Hillsborough in Prince Edward Island, that being the lack of a ports and harbours authority for Charlottetown Harbour.

The federal government is responsible for appointments to the ports and harbours advisory committees which monitor the daily shipping activities of this important harbour. To date, my constituency is still waiting for the federal government to announce such appointments. The Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce and numerous other organizations continue to wait.

The names of qualified individuals have been submitted but these initiatives have fallen on deaf ears. Today I call upon the government to expedite the process so that the Charlottetown Harbour can return to full capacity, benefiting all our farmers, fishermen and the local business community.

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VIA RAIL

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, last week VIA Rail announced 40 per cent fare reductions on some of its Ontario and Quebec routes. One week earlier, VIA announced a 40 per cent fare increase on the Vancouver Island passenger service of VIA Rail. At the same time, the Minister of Justice announced that he would appeal a Supreme Court decision which obliges Canada to continue to operate the Vancouver Island service under the conditions of the terms of union by which B.C. entered Confederation.

I call on the Minister of Justice to withdraw his appeal of that decision and to stop conspiring with the CPR to relieve them of their responsibility to provide passenger rail service on Vancouver Island. I call on this Tory government to remember that the terms of union by which B.C. entered Confederation are not like Tory promises that can be forgotten after the next election. They are the glue that holds this province as part of Confederation and extends this dominion from sea to sea. Finally, I call on the government—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I recognize the hon. member for Halifax.

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FISHERIES

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic fisheries are continually being victimized by this government. In its disregard for the Atlantic region, the government has opted to ignore legitimate requests and is not even bothering to construct its usual lame and inane excuses.

Last month, the *Jessie & Shelly II*, a \$2 million fishing vessel, burned causing \$1 million in damages. While under refit, the owners of the vessel have sought to lease a replacement vessel from the United States. Their request is legitimate and has received the approval of all levels of government and is in compliance with the temporary vessel replacement policy of Canada. However, the process has been stalled by the Minister of Fisheries.

The request has awaited the minister's signature for a week and inquiries as to the status of the request have been ignored and phone calls not returned. The minister's indifference to the plight of the crew and the owner