

co-ordinate their efforts to ensure the earliest possible delivery of this program.

• (1500)

Has the minister decided to support reinstatement of the emergency response fishery program for B.C. fishing industry workers?

**Mr. Valcourt:** Mr. Speaker, I sympathize with the plight of all Canadians who work in the fishery.

I will be contacting my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, who is responsible for the management of the resource. Together we will look at the situation of the fishery in British Columbia and then decide what form of action is required.

**Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan):** Mr. Speaker, I think the minister recognizes that the problem was created by the government when it changed UI legislation to require more weeks of work.

On the other hand it controls the harvesting of the resource and shortened the fishing season. Really the government is responsible. I hope that the answer is positive and that the minister recognizes the importance of an early reaction and gives it soon.

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and Minister for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the hon. member that the emergency response feature is mainly for catch failure. There has not been a catch failure in British Columbia's fisheries.

The herring roe and the salmon catch has been as high or higher than the average of the last five years.

Nowadays there is a tremendous compression of the catching as a result of the change of gear and the ability of fishermen to move around. The catch is as high as it has been but is much more compressed. That is causing structural changes which are taking place in the industry.

**Mr. Speaker:** I must ask the indulgence of the House for a moment. It being 3 p.m. it is my duty, pursuant to the order made earlier this day, to direct the hon. member for Port Moody—Coquitlam to proceed to the bar of the House. I would ask for absolute order for the next few minutes.

*House of Commons*

**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

MEMBER FOR PORT MOODY—COQUITLAM

**Mr. Speaker:** Mr. Waddell, you stand at the bar of the House because your peers have decided that the conduct you displayed in the House on Wednesday, October 30, 1991 offended the privileges of the House of Commons of Canada.

Just before adjournment and shortly after eight o'clock p.m. you were given the floor on a point of order. After your intervention the Deputy Speaker made a ruling on your point of order and proceeded to adjourn the House in conformity with the Standing Orders whereupon you left your seat in breach of our conventions, interfered with the Sergeant-at-Arms, an officer of the House, and you physically attempted to prevent the Mace from leaving the Chamber.

The Sergeant-at-Arms is a servant of this House and acts under the authority of the Speaker. The Mace is the symbol which embodies not only the authority of the House but its privileges as well.

The special privileges that members of the House of Commons enjoy are part of the constitutional law of Canada. Freedom of speech is one of the most revered of these privileges. However, with that privilege comes the responsibility to use it wisely and for the good of Canada.

It is not a licence to say whatever one wishes under all circumstances, or permission to disregard the rules of the House or the common practices of civility.

There is little doubt that the incident of last evening is one which all members regret. In your statement to the House earlier you expressed your personal regret and apologized to the House.

Nevertheless because of the seriousness of your action the House has chosen to agree to the motion directing me to reprimand you. You have been duly elected a member of this House. It is incumbent upon you to represent your constituents and to fulfil your duties and obligations as a member. In honouring those onerous obligations it is essential that you always respect this institution and its rules and practices.

The House of Commons can only function when its dignity is upheld by all members and its rules followed. That you disregarded the rules and practices of this place and the authority of the Speaker is a matter of grave