

members of Parliament and senators. This is not right. We must have conflict of interest regulations now.

The Prime Minister need only take a look at the example set by his friend, the premier of Gettysburg, to know that this problem needs to be addressed—

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member's time has expired.

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[*Translation*]

### EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

**Mr. Charles-Eugène Marin (Gaspé):** This year, Mr. Speaker, November has been chosen as the month to make people more conscious of epilepsy. Epilepsy Canada and the various associations included in this organization have made concerted efforts throughout the month to help Canadians become more familiar with this neurological illness.

Current statistics put at roughly 400,000 the number of Canadians suffering from some form of epilepsy, a far higher percentage than in the case of any other neurological disorder. Today, appropriate care and treatment enable many people to lead a normal and productive life, yet about half of epileptics continue to be the victims of uncontrollable seizures.

Strange though it may seem, our so-called advanced society still nurtures myths and false conceptions with respect to epilepsy. Some people hesitate to admit they are subject to epileptic convulsions because they fear losing their job, their friends or their status. Discrimination and rejection still cause problems at school, at work and in society generally.

Mr. Speaker, let us hope these people will soon be openly accepted by their fellow citizens.

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[*English*]

### NORTHERN TAX BENEFITS

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the New Democratic caucus again I would like to raise the issue of a northern tax benefit. I would like to point out that it is our caucus, the New Democratic caucus, which has raised this issue more often in the House than the other two parties and/or the independents.

### S. O. 31

I would like to bring to the attention of the Minister of Finance that the Christmas season and the new year are fast approaching. The people of thousands of northern Canadian communities are living with uncertainty because of the impending elimination of the northern tax benefit to their communities effective this January.

The Minister of Finance has had a task force report on northern and isolated areas in his hands for over one year now and has not announced what he will do with regard to this issue. The government has a responsibility to act immediately. It is a shame that some Canadians will face the new year and the holiday season with this uncertainty about their financial situation. It is a disgrace that these Canadians have had to wait as long as they have for action.

Once again, I call upon the government to reject their flawed task force report and implement a fair taxation system for Canada's northern and isolated areas.

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### FISHERIES

**Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore):** Mr. Speaker, this morning saw 2,000 lobster fishermen from Nova Scotia districts 33 and 34 heading out to set their traps for the first day of the lobster season. We wish them safety and a full harvest.

The lobster industry in Nova Scotia brought some \$69 million this year, up \$3 million from the year before. While prices were low, catches, particularly in western Nova Scotia, were high.

The recent lobster dispute with the United States has created some uncertainty with respect to prices and markets for the immediate future. In response to the express wishes of a significant majority of Nova Scotia lobster fishermen, the government rejected the recently negotiated lobster agreement with the United States. I commend the government for listening to and acting upon the wishes of the people most directly affected.

This morning a 40-knot gale greeted the lobster fishermen as they headed out with their traps. We pray they all return safely. To greater enhance the possibility of this in the future, perhaps the government should consider providing fisheries officers with some flexibility in opening dates to accommodate the exigencies of the North Atlantic's November weather.