

Petitions

The second would be a program of direct Government to Government aid to help Mexico rebuild infrastructure which has been destroyed by the earthquake. This kind of aid would include equipment, expertise and financial help.

In addition, our aid proposals should not be considered in isolation from other events affecting Mexico. It is offensive in the extreme that on the very day when Mexico was hit by the devastation of an earthquake, the International Monetary Fund suspended \$450 million of loans to that country. This action symbolizes the insensitivity of the IMF to the suffering of people in many countries where it has cracked the whip and withdrawn loans from Governments desperately trying to meet the needs of their people. If the Canadian Government is truly concerned about the tragedy facing the Mexican people, it will use all the power and prestige it has with the IMF to reverse that decision and to restore the loan.

The close ties between Canada and Mexico are shown by the fact that there may be as many as 35,000 Canadians in that country now. The Government has taken steps to establish contact. I commend it for that, but I urge it to bring in a much more comprehensive program to begin to address the needs of the people of Mexico.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

PETITIONS

REGULATION OF GAS PRICES

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Duvernay): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed by 66,771 Quebec consumers asking for the establishment of a gasoline price board.

I was given this petition by Quebec's *Association des services de l'automobile Inc.* because the price of a litre of gasoline in Quebec jumped from 15.7 cents in 1975 to 57.5 cents in 1985—an increase of 400 per cent—while the retailer's gross profit has not changed in ten years and his operating costs have kept going up.

The recent purchase of Gulf by Petro-Canada does not seem to bring—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. The Hon. Member is only allowed to present a brief summary, but does he have another petition?

Mr. Della Noce: No, Mr. Speaker, I simply wanted to present this petition to the House.

Mr. Speaker: Are there other petitions?

The Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis).

[English]

CHANGES TO UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REGULATIONS

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops-Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to present a petition on behalf of a few hundred residents of British Columbia who are concerned by the announcement of the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonal) indicating that workers laid off after December 31, 1985, will have their pension benefits deducted from their unemployment insurance benefits, thus effectively eliminating the benefits to workers of the pension package they might receive.

Mr. Speaker: Before turning to the introduction of Bills, I wish to inform the House that because of the Ministerial statement, consideration of Government Orders will be extended by nine minutes this day. Therefore, Private Members' Hour will begin at 4.09 p.m.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S.O. 31

NORTHLAND BANK SITUATION

Mr. Speaker: I am in receipt of a notice under Standing Order 31 from the Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent).

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I was informed that the order was somewhat different from what it has turned out to be. If Your Honour makes a favourable ruling, I would be pleased to move the following motion at the appropriate time:

That the House do now adjourn to debate the federal Government's role in the crisis facing the Northland Bank.

Mr. Hnatyshyn: What do you think has been on the Order Paper for the last two weeks?

Mr. Broadbent: It is not the crisis.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry if there was some confusion. As I understand the Standing Orders, they contemplate motions under Standing Order 31 at this time and on two days a week after Questions on the Order Paper. I can assure the Hon. Member that I would know it if I did not have a crib sheet.

The Hon. Member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) sent me notice of his intent to seek leave to move a motion under Standing Order 31. As he knows, in considering an application for an emergency debate under that Standing Order, the Chair must judge whether it meets the strict criteria required. In the letter which I received from the Hon. Member, certain matters were raised. I must say to him that the holding of a press conference and the allegations made by the President of the Northland Bank are not of themselves sufficient to constitute a genuine emergency as contemplated by the Standing Order. Neither, I should remind Hon. Members, has the action or inaction of a Minister ever been accepted as a justification for granting an emergency debate. It is only the emergency itself,