

Oral Questions

Mr. Speaker, Rita is still being detained by the Iraqi government which refuses to issue her an exit visa. Article 13, Clause 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations, of which Iraq is a member, states: "everyone has the right to leave any country including his own and to return to his country".

Iraqi law recognizes neither Rita's citizenship nor the legality of her adoption. Therefore, it claims that it cannot allow her to return to her home.

I urge the Secretary of State to once again remind the Iraqi government of the gravity of this situation and to appeal to the Iraqi government to let Rita come home and continue to live her life as a Canadian.

As an adoptive parent myself, I call on the government of Iraq to respect the adoption laws of Canada.

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STATEMENT BY SPEAKER

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if hon. members would indulge the Speaker's need to make a short statement.

I wish to inform the House that I have received several communications from all parties regarding testimony given before the Standing Committee on Justice and the Solicitor General relating to police investigations of certain members. I have given this matter my entire attention this morning and it was the major item of discussion at the Board of Internal Economy meeting this noon.

I want to assure all hon. members that the Chair will review with great care the testimony of the witnesses before that committee as it relates to the authority of the Board of Internal Economy and the rights and immunities of members of this House.

On this very important matter I shall, of course, report back to the House as soon as possible and I shall seek whatever advice and counsel is necessary in the process.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FISHERIES

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Prime Minister. The Conservative government has allowed the Spanish and Portuguese fleets to pillage our own fish. What few

fish are left the government has allowed the French to steal. It has allowed the Europeans to set fish quotas which are absolutely absurd. It caved in to the Americans on the fish processing rules for our salmon and herring. It caved in to the Americans on our export tax for fish. It has mismanaged our cod, our herring, our pollack and our flounder stocks. It has mismanaged the snow crab industry until it is now in total collapse.

Now the Prime Minister's good friend, the President of the United States, has just signed into law a ban on millions of dollars of Canadian lobsters. It is a great trade deal that the Prime Minister of Canada signed. It has just done wonders for the Atlantic coast fishery, hasn't it, Mr. Speaker?

What is the Prime Minister going to do for the Atlantic coast about the disaster that he has created? Did he not promise, among other things, that the President of the United States would not sign that law?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition raises, on the one hand, the very serious question of the Atlantic fishery, which has been with us for some time. Then I think he destroys much of the value of the point that he tries to make by turning it into a partisan issue when, in fact, it is a very important national issue.

• (1420)

I refer my hon. friend, for example, to an analysis by Professor Anthony Davis in this morning's *The Globe and Mail*, who is a specialist in fisheries research at St. Francis Xavier University. Contrary to what the right hon. gentlemen has just said, the conclusion of the distinguished professor, the expert, seems to be that one of the root causes of the problem originated with the report culled together and presided over by Michael Kirby in 1983. He spells it out very clearly. So, I commend that—

Some hon. members: Shame on you.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. members: Who's Michael Kirby?

Mr. Mulroney: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the Liberal Party has the nerve to stand up here and blame this government for all of the sins of the world. Yet, when I point out an analysis that was done by a distinguished research professor in fisheries this morning who has a different opinion, all of a sudden they start to howl. I have acknowledged it is a very serious problem. I have