

particular industry. It says that it is concerned about all private primary industries and here we have a primary industry which the Government is devastating by putting this Bill in place. I will continue my remarks after two o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock, I do now leave the Chair until two o'clock this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINT—CALL FOR AMENDMENTS TO LEGISLATION

Mr. John Nunziata (York South-Weston): Mr. Speaker, the sexual harassment case involving the former Minister of National Defence, the Hon. Member for Cumberland-Colchester (Mr. Coates), illustrates how the procedures and practices with respect to complaints under the Human Rights Act are grossly unjust. The Member has been denied some very basic rights. Fundamental principles of natural justice, including the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, have been breached. The damaging media coverage surrounding the launching of a complaint has the effect of convicting an individual in the eyes of the public before a fair hearing has been conducted. Even though a complaint might subsequently be determined to be without merit, the damage caused cannot be corrected. Complete vindication is impossible.

The Human Rights Act does not require a complainant to swear an affidavit or provide independent substantiating evidence. There is absolutely no protection against frivolous and vexatious complaints. Reputations and families can be destroyed by the publicity surrounding the mere laying of a complaint. The media have special rights in a democracy which must be scrupulously protected. But these rights, especially in relation to a quasi-judicial body, must give way to the greater right of the individual to be presumed innocent until proven guilty. I call on the Government, in the name of fairness, to bring forward immediate amendments to the Human Rights Act to prohibit the publication of a complaint by the media until a hearing and subsequent decision by the Commission.

[Translation]

S.O. 21

NATIONAL PARKS

IMPACT OF BUDGETARY CUTBACKS ON NEW BRUNSWICK

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Westmorland-Kent): Mr. Speaker, last weekend, the people of the Village of Alma, in New Brunswick, strongly protested against the cutbacks affecting Fundy National Park, announced by the Conservative Government last November.

Thirty residents of Alma have just lost their jobs which, needless to say, are very important to them. At least 300 residents depend on Fundy Park for employment which is mostly available only during the summer months.

First of all, in a province where the unemployment rate is very high, the Government has no right to cause further loss of jobs. Furthermore, cutbacks in our national parks also affect tourism. Admission fees have tripled, so that now it costs \$12 instead of \$5 to have access to a camp site.

Mr. Speaker, Canadians are increasingly feeling the impact of Conservative policies that will bring the development of our national parks to a halt. Already, since the opening of the new season at Fundy, it seems there are far fewer visitors than last year.

This is only the beginning, and the worst part is that everyone is going to suffer: workers are losing their jobs, and it will cost more to visit the parks. What it boils down to is, Mr. Speaker, that this Government is trying to destroy the heritage and the economy of New Brunswick.

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[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ENGAGEMENT OF CNIB CATER PLAN SERVICES

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I recently learned that luncheon arrangements for school children visiting Ottawa from our various constituencies will now be accommodated through the Canadian National Institute for the Blind Cater Plan services. I understand this has been brought about by the closure of the cafeteria in the Wellington Building. The Government is to be commended, and I assume you as well, Mr. Speaker, for engaging the services of this splendid organization to cope with our present shortfall in accommodating these groups.

CNIB Cater Plan services has been in existence for 58 years. At present it employs 1,071 people across Canada, 240 of whom are registered blind. This is a non-profit organization whose main purpose is the employment of the blind in a meaningful and fulfilling occupation. In Ottawa they provide catering services in 26 federally occupied buildings.

Cater Plan is the largest employer of blind people in Canada, and in my Province of Alberta it has 39 operations,