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possibly direct a request to the government, through the parliamentary secretary to the House leader, in that this obviously is an issue of great interest to most people across Canada, to many people from all sides of this House, especially to our home province of British Columbia, and it is a critical issue to my riding, the people who live in Cariboo—Chilcotin.

I, through you Mr. Speaker, would sincerely request of the House leader that he take it under consideration in his discussions with other House leaders. I hope that we can find a way to set time aside in the near future, as early as possible, so that we can go through what I consider to be a very important debate.

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I think it is fairly obvious that this issue is of concern to a number of members in the House. I have to include myself in that list, coming from a riding where forestry is a major issue.

I have had some discussions with the Department of Forestry. There may well be an interest in having a debate and providing some time for members of the House to do so. What I would like to suggest to the hon. member and to others who are concerned about the issue is that a House leaders meeting should be going on at this moment. I will be there in a few minutes. Perhaps we can discuss it there and come to an agreement that would provide time for all of us to look at this issue.

Mr. Réginald Bélair (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, as forestry critic for the Liberal Party I fully support the motion that has been set forth by both the PCs and the NDP. We are ready and willing to participate in such a debate.

The recent decision by the Americans will have a tremendous impact on the industry and on my riding in particular.

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Mr. Speaker, I would certainly join on behalf of our party. I know our deputy House leader will be attending that meeting and we are certainly prepared on this side to work with all other parties in the House to try to arrange a debate as quickly as possible.

As I mentioned this morning in my appeal to you, Mr. Speaker, given the seriousness of this issue, and the

government and the Prime Minister considering this, it is important that Canadians hear from the House on it.

I might say, just in conclusion, in previous debates and in particular on the issue around the whole problem with the fishery off Newfoundland and Labrador, that was an example of how a debate on an important resource issue went well. It gave an opportunity for all sides of the House to present their arguments. It is an important issue. I hope we can move quickly and expeditiously to have a debate on this matter.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I know that you are very responsive to the wishes of this House. There seems to be unanimity developing on this issue. As a matter of fact, I cannot find one single member in disagreement. I submit respectfully, that we as members from Quebec would like to take part in this debate which has far-reaching implications for us.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker, since there is unanimity, maybe you would like to take it under advisement and say that by tomorrow you will give a decision. I do not expect that to be said at this time, but you would be disappointing the unanimity that is very rarely seen in this Chamber. It is not a question of partisanship. It is a very important issue which is only the beginning of many more to come.

We know that the election in the United States is in November. How many more of those will take place? Maybe the time is appropriate for us to put our views that will most likely be unanimous that this kind of action should not take place.

Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast): Mr. Speaker, as critic for energy, mines and resources for the opposition, you may not have been in Vancouver or the lower mainland, but I can tell you, Sir, that it has had the effect of a tidal wave in your province and in other provinces as well.

Mr. Speaker: I wonder if I could say to my colleague that the Speaker is also a member of Parliament. I am in my riding and in my province on a very regular basis.

I can assure the hon. member that what he says is correct. I was there. I have heard it all, and I do not want anybody to think for a moment that when I am wrestling with the proper application of procedural rules on an issue like this, it is not dealt with by me on a most serious basis, indeed.