

Tabling of Documents

[Translation]

CONSUMER AFFAIRSTOXIC MUSSELS AFFAIR—REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
CAMPAIGN

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, Quebec Fish and Seafood Marketing Association spokesmen accuse the Government of spreading confusion and triggering a \$50 million loss in the industry—distributors, fish and molluscs producers, brokers and retailers. The facts speak for themselves, Mr. Speaker: sales figures for all seafoods dropped anywhere between 30 and 70 per cent, depending on the outlet, despite the fact that molluscs, which have been banned, account for only 1 per cent of seafoods. These people seek compensation. Dealers want the Government to intervene immediately to help them offset the negative impact.

Since the Government is duty-bound to clear up the situation and keep the public fully informed, I would suggest that the Prime Minister launch an information campaign so that people know what is safe to eat and provide assistance to the seafood industry which is experiencing serious financial difficulties as a result of the errors and confusion of the Government.

● (1250)

[English]

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, in response to the Hon. Member, without accepting any of the allegations that he makes, I want to say to him that, along with the Minister of Fisheries, we have put forward a plan which was given yesterday and there were a number of questions, primarily from the media, on the issue.

I take it the Hon. Member is looking at a promotion campaign, a reassurance campaign. We are looking at that. I, along with the Minister of Fisheries, am taking that suggestion very seriously.

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[Translation]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

MR. SPEAKER EXTENDS COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Mr. Speaker: I want to wish a Merry Christmas to all Hon. Members, to the pages and to the whole staff.

[English]

I would offer a special thanks to our *Hansard* reporters—

[Translation]

—in English and also in French.

[English]

We thank you for taking what is said here and transforming it into intelligible and civil form.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: May I also take this opportunity to thank the Leaders of all Parties, the House Leaders and all of my colleagues in this place for their co-operation and help in all these many months.

I conclude by saying that I remind all Hon. Members that there is a certain tradition in this place that will take place as soon as the House rises in the usual place. I will be hoping that you will all join me there.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!**ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS**

[English]

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 106(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the Government's response to Petitions Nos. 332-3414 and 332-3488.

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ELECTIONS, PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURE

PRESENTATION OF SEVENTH REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. Fred King (Okanagan—Similkameen): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present in both official languages the Seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure. This report concerns the question of privilege referred to the committee by the House last May. We believe the recommendations contained in the report will help all committees to establish guidelines respecting *in camera* proceedings so that all committees and their members are better protected. Such guidelines will also better enable the House to deal with problems of disclosure of confidential proceedings of committees.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]