

It was back in June when he asked the question we are dealing with tonight. At that time the Minister of Employment and Immigration wanted to assure him that circumstances would call for measures to be taken to help the people and that the government would do everything possible.

That has been done. I am glad to see the member tonight acknowledging that many things have taken place. It is still not perfect and improvements can be made.

In addition to the income assistance measures, income training within and outside the fishery, early retirement and licence retirement options have been provided to northern cod workers with unique opportunities that would otherwise not have been made available to them.

The once in a lifetime openings will equip individuals affected by the moratorium to make informed career choices and to do away with the image of the fishery as the employer of last resort.

While the fishery has been experiencing a recurring downturn in some sectors, the past year has been exceptional across Atlantic Canada, particularly in Newfoundland.

The Minister of Employment and Immigration has recognized that in certain communities individuals were unable to secure sufficient weeks of insurable employment qualify for UI benefits. In response to this urgent need and in co-operation with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, emergency funding was provided to create employment needed to obtain the minimum number of weeks.

Clearly, however, continued emergency responses are not the desired solution. It is evident that long-term adjustments are necessary and critical for rebuilding the stocks and to restructure the labour force into one the fishery can realistically support.

The fishery that will emerge from the adjustment process will support a smaller but highly professional work force. The number of people who will depend on the fishery will be reduced. Short-term solutions include compensation for early retirement, licence retirement and so on. The task force on incomes and adjustments is expected to provide valuable insights on how to achieve stable and adequate incomes for fisheries workers and to realize alternative training and employment possibilities.

Adjournment Debate

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I am sorry but the time is running out.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss again the question of two Canadians who are imprisoned in Brazil. They are Christine Lamont and David Spencer.

I am sure that most people are familiar with the facts of this particular case and that we have been pushing the government to request the expulsion of those two Canadians from Brazilian jails and have them returned to Canada and their families. The government so far has been opposed to that particular procedure.

As time passes and as we look at this particular circumstance I believe that it becomes more and more urgent that this government take action with respect to these two Canadians. If you accept their guilt, which I do not, then given the time spent in relation to their original sentence of 10 years and 8 years, they both would be eligible for release and parole here in Canada. Their sentence of 28 years was acknowledged by the minister of external affairs to be discriminatory, excessive and an offensive penalty.

If we look at the other circumstances, then the time that has already been spent is sufficient for this government, if it is convinced of their guilt, to ask for their expulsion and have them returned. If there is any doubt, which I believe there is, as to their guilt then by all means we are allowing an improper and a sad circumstance to continue far too long.

There are now new conditions which prompt me to rise and speak about this circumstance. We have now learned that Christine Lamont has tested positive for tuberculosis. The Prime Minister in one of his answers to my questions said: "Oh, she just had swollen ankles and it was not anything serious". I think tuberculosis is serious. If she has tested positive then that again is an indication that the health conditions are not that great. This is further impetus for Canada and the Canadian government to respond.

Another factor which recently came to light—I received a copy of a recent wire service story—that 100 military police have been charged in an incident involving the slaying of over 200 prisoners during a prison riot in a prison adjacent to where the Canadians are kept. I think it is good. It shows a positive response by the