

The Canada—U.S. Free Trade Agreement does not apply directly to those exports. They come under the GATT. Our hope to stop these dangerous subsidy practices lies in the GATT. That is why we are members of the Cairns group. That is why we are fighting for the Canadian farmer to achieve a successful resolution in the Uruguay round.

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FISHERIES

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, on December 8 last year, I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs to assist two Canadian fishermen whose boats were seized by the U.S. Coast Guard in Canadian waters south of the AB line on the Alaska boundary.

In my discussions with the minister's office, they have recognized that there is some Canadian obligation to assist these fishermen but because the message was relayed by Fisheries, that that obligation is shared by the Department of Fisheries.

These fishermen are facing the loss of the \$50,000 bonds they posted with the American government, they are facing the loss of the value of their catch and they are facing an expensive legal process in Alaska.

My question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries. When is he going to accept his responsibility to assist these fishermen and when is he going to make the announcement that that support is available?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the petition raised by the hon. member on behalf of the two fishermen, the owners of the *Fonzie* and the *Viscount*, which were apprehended by an American Coast Guard vessel for an alleged infraction north of or within the U.S. coastal waters, outside of the recognized Canadian boundary.

There is some ambiguity as to whether the vessel was beyond Canada's jurisdiction. However, I continue to work with my colleague, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and other colleagues in cabinet, to seek some form of restitution or assistance in aid of these fishermen.

S. O. 52

POINT OF ORDER

STANDING ORDER 52

Mr. Speaker: I want to advise hon. members that pursuant to a discussion earlier today, commenced by a point of order by the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier and followed by interventions on both sides of the House, it was agreed that the House would deem certain applications for emergency debates which came to my attention for consideration yesterday and which were not heard because the government had moved to Orders of the Day, to be in front of the House today and I, as a consequence, am responding to them now.

I point out to hon. members that this was done by arrangement and whatever was done is not to be taken as either a judgment on the point that the hon. member for Ottawa Vanier raised or a precedent. I will deal with the intricacies of the procedural matter that the hon. member raised at another time.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

RAFFERTY—ALAMEDA DAM PROJECT

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg Transcona): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 52 to seek an emergency debate on a matter of pressing concern, namely the Rafferty—Alameda dam project in Saskatchewan and the disregard of environmental guidelines as found in the Federal Court decision of last month.

The court ruled that the environmental impact study ordered by the environment minister last year was flawed and incomplete. The judge ordered that the minister name a new panel to study these projects within 30 days. That has not been done. Meanwhile, construction continues, in some cases on a 24-hour per day basis, changing forever the landscape of Saskatchewan. The dam is now 60 per cent complete.

When the minister allowed construction to continue last August, he did so on the basis of a flawed study, yet he has not stopped construction. I submit that here we have an emergency not only in terms of substance, that is to say that the environment of Saskatchewan is being forever altered, but also in terms of environmental procedure; that we are in danger of setting a precedent that a project can proceed to completion while a review is going on. That is an emergency with respect to