

FISHERIES

CLOSURE OF HIGHLANDS FISHERIES PLANT IN GLACE BAY, N.S.

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Acting Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Last Friday the Minister met with civic representatives, union leaders, and myself in Glace Bay to discuss the closure of the Highlands Fisheries plant in Glace Bay, thereby putting 310 individuals out of employment.

The Minister gave an undertaking to the gathering that he would have conversations with the president of Clearwater, Mr. John Risley, to secure from him undertakings, hopefully written undertakings, as to the future of this particular plant, and more important as to when the hiring of the 310 employees will be resumed. The Minister gave a date of August 1, 1988.

I ask the Minister to respond as to whether or not that date has been firmed up and the plant will open on August 1.

Mr. Pat Binns (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the Minister is intent on having Clearwater live up to the commitment that he is looking for from the company. The Minister visited Nova Scotia on Friday with the purpose of having that plant reopened in order that the workers could return to their jobs. That was specifically undertaken for that reason. The Minister has no reason to look for anything but a concrete plan from the company. That is why it has an enterprise allocation and access to inshore fish.

Mr. Speaker: This will be the last question. The Hon. Member for Cape Breton—East Richmond.

BLOCKADE MOUNTED BY LAID-OFF WORKERS

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for that response. I wish to remind him that it was a Clearwater representative who said to the community that there was no fish available. Subsequent to the meeting on Friday with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, in the darkness of night a ship arrived in port with 30,000 pounds of fish. As a result there has been a blockade of Highlands Fisheries by employees in Glace Bay.

In view of the fact that 310 employees are out of employment, in view of the fact that the Minister has given the community an undertaking, would the Hon. Member not give this House an undertaking that he will return later in the day and give us a status report on what is taking place at the Highlands Fisheries Ltd. plant, in other words, whether the Minister has received written undertakings to open this plant on August 1, 1988?

Mr. Pat Binns (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the Minister is following the situation very closely. He has asked the company to keep in mind the

Lobbyists Registration Act

concerns of the workers, and hopefully the 310 workers will be back to work in the near future.

The Minister has a few cards that he can play in this matter, and he is following it on an hour-to-hour basis. I am sure he will use whatever means he can to help the workers return to their jobs.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

LOBBYISTS REGISTRATION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs) moved that Bill C-82, an Act respecting the registration of lobbyists, be read the third time and passed.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to speak to the House today during third reading of Bill C-82, the proposed Lobbyists Registration Act. It is an important step toward the establishment of a lobbyists' register.

In September, 1985, the Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) announced this initiative as part of public sector ethics. Soon after, a discussion paper, *Lobbying and the Registration of Paid Lobbyists*, was tabled in the House and was referred to the Standing Committee on Elections, Privileges and Procedure. Early last year, the committee presented a unanimous report that recommended the establishment of a lobbyists' registration system. Bill C-82, which I tabled in June, 1987, is faithful to the spirit of the standing committee's recommendations.

From the start there have been four guiding principles in the development of a lobbyist registration system. First, openness. A registry should allow the public and public office holders to know who is making representations to Government, giving transparency to the public's relations with Governments. Second, clarity. It should be clear who is required to register and who is not. Third, access to Government. The requirements of a registry system should not impede access to Government by the public. Fourth, administrative simplicity. Administrative processes should be kept to a minimum so that the purpose of the program is fulfilled without imposing an administrative burden on those affected by it.

It was not an easy task to put these four principles in one package. Some seem at odds with others, but I believe the Bill remains true to its principles.

The proposed registry has two levels or "tiers". Tier I lobbyists are professional third party lobbyists who represent clients to Government. We know them as government relations consultants, lawyers, and accountants. A Tier I lobbyist would be required to disclose his or her name and business address and, if applicable, the name of his or her firm. In addition, this lobbyist would disclose the name and address of the client, and