

WATER RESOURCES

PLACENTIA BAY, NFLD.—ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOVERNMENT LOANS TO FISHERMEN FOR LOSS THROUGH POLLUTION

Mr. Walter C. Carter (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I did not succeed in catching Your Honour's eye earlier. Since the matter I have in mind is of great urgency to the people concerned, would Your Honour permit me to ask a question of the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I have no objection if that is the wish of the house. I should bring to the hon. member's attention that he was not alone in not catching the attention of the Chair earlier during the question period. We try to see as many hon. members as possible, but when the questions are long and the answers are also long some hon. members are left by the wayside as we come to the end of the time allocated. However if there is no objection perhaps the hon. member might ask his question.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Carter: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry elaborate on the statement he released just before lunch to the effect that a form of assistance would be available to the fishermen of St. Marys and Placentia Bay, Newfoundland, whose livelihood has been cut off by the pollution problem in their area? Will the minister advise the house whether it is planned to give the fishermen affected by the serious pollution any form of compensation?

Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, we have a team of officials in the area determining the extent of the damage and the degree to which fishermen's incomes are being reduced. It is the government's intention to make loans in order to offset the reduction in incomes so that the fishermen will not suffer from the closure of the fishery there. We hope, of course, to be able to recover those funds at a later date from those who caused the pollution in the first place.

Mr. Carter: A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. The minister in his statement made reference to the fact that his department has taken stringent measures to ensure that no fishing is carried out in the waters where the affected fish have appeared. Could the minister assure the house that the plant which is reported to be the cause of the pollution will

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be forced to remain closed until this problem has been resolved?

Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, we are constantly in touch with the management of the plant concerned. There may be some test running necessary. I can assure the hon. member that the situation is being kept under very strict review.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

AGREEMENT AS TO DEBATING TIME ON MOTION UNDER BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, may I rise on a point of order which relates to a motion that will be before the house very shortly. It has been agreed by the house leaders that the time allocation for speeches shall be as follows: That the mover of the motion be allotted 30 minutes, that the minister who replies for the government be allotted 30 minutes, that the leading spokesmen for the New Democratic party and the Ralliement Cr ditiste be allotted 20 minutes each and that all remaining speakers be allotted 10 minutes. That will give a greater opportunity for hon. members to participate. If that is agreeable, perhaps it could be made an order of the house for this debate.

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, this proposal was agreed to. May I ask the minister at this time whether there is to be any change in the business of the house for tomorrow or for next week? Will the business for tomorrow be as announced last night?

Mr. MacEachen: Mr. Speaker, the understanding is that we will begin tomorrow with the official languages bill and that debate on that bill will continue until notice is given to the contrary.

Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, with regard to the statement made about the time arrangement for speeches to be made today, may I say that the minister's announcement is a correct statement of the results of our collective bargaining on this issue. However I wish to make it clear that this discrimination with respect to the time allotted to the leaders of the two larger parties and the two parties in this part of the house should not be considered a precedent that will always be followed.