

that if this is creating hardship or seems to be an abuse, then it is up to the House to make a change in the rules.

But I point out, that what was done the other night is not something that has not done before by both sides. At the same time, it is not for the Chair to tell the House what to do. Perhaps under the circumstances it is for the Chair to observe that a notice embargoed—it may be a notice procedurally—is not much information to the other side.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

BANK OF CANADA

TABLING OF ANNUAL REPORT

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, I rise today, pursuant to Standing Order 32(2), to table the annual report of the Bank of Canada in both official languages. I do so on behalf of the Minister of Finance who had to leave.

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

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PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Madam Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 33 petitions being numbers 342-4545 to 4549 inclusive, 4551 to 4557 inclusive, 4559 to 4564 inclusive, 4569 to 4574 inclusive, 4578 to 4580 inclusive, 4583 to 4585 inclusive, and 5094, 5107 and 5116.

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

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[Translation]

PETITIONS

REQUEST FOR ROYAL PARDON FOR MADAM ANNETTE PROULX

Mrs. Suzanne Duplessis (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Science): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to table a petition signed by 8,000 people calling

Routine Proceedings

for the release of Mrs. Annette Proulx who has requested the royal clemency. Other petitions will follow soon.

I remind you that Mrs. Proulx, who will soon turn 75, has been in prison for 11 years. Without a royal pardon, she won't be released until the year 2004 when she will be 89.

The judge, the police, the Crown attorney and even our new archbishop, Monsignor Couture, all support her request for royal clemency and feel she is not a threat to society.

I, too, support this humanitarian process initiated by Mr. Simon Bédard and humbly call up on Parliament to urge the Privy Council to grant the royal pardon to Mrs. Annette Proulx, who is currently in the Gomin jail.

[English]

FISHERIES

Hon. Roger C. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Madam Speaker, I have the pleasure in presenting a couple of petitions. First, one from 388 people in the community of Gaultois which has a total population of about 600. So I submit that just about every adult in that community has signed his or her name, and with good reason, because it addresses the situation with respect to the fish plant which is slated to close, the one employer in that community.

The prayer of the petition is that Parliament takes steps to prevent the plant from being closed by Fishery Products International. It is a matter that I have raised on a number of occasions both private and in this House with the Minister of Fisheries and his predecessor. I would hope it would be referred to him for the appropriate action.

My second item is a number of other petitions on a related subject which has to do again with the fisheries and it is signed by 3,150 people in many, many communities, many in my riding of Grand Banks, Marystown, English Harbour, and many others, but also some in the riding of the gentleman from St. John's West, particularly the community of Trepassey where a fish plant is being closed by FPI.

The prayer of the petition is twofold. First, that Parliament would take steps to see that the fishermen and plant workers who were adversely affected by those plant closures be provided for in terms of an emergency relief program. Second, that the Parliament would urge the Government of Canada to take more energetic steps