

S. O. 31

I am appalled that the Government of Canada which has the sole responsibility both constitutional and otherwise to manage our fisheries has acted so negligently on this most important issue.

The question must be put. Who is managing our fisheries? Is it the Department of External Affairs? Is it the Department of Fisheries and Oceans? Or is it the foreign capitals in Spain and Portugal and other foreign countries?

The situation in Atlantic Canada is of paramount concern to all Canadians. They have seen by the demonstrable acts of this government the negligence that it has put forward in terms of managing our fisheries.

I urge the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to take heed of the advice he has been given by all members of this Chamber in order to change a very, very serious situation.

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CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

Mr. Ken James (Sarnia—Lambton): Mr. Speaker, Canadians can have their house expropriated without a hearing to determine fair value. There are many legal opinions that there is no legal recourse.

Mr. David Stratas of a noted Toronto law firm said in a paper released recently that the charter does protect some interests which can be said to be proprietary in nature.

The absence of a specific provision enshrining the right against confiscation of property unless it is in accordance with the principles of fundamental justice means the arbitrary and irrational exercise of power. Mr. Stratas writes:

There are reasons of varying strength which support putting property rights in the charter. These are:

- (a) The right to property is not unknown to our law;
- (b) The right to property is one of our oldest common law rights; and
- (c) The right to property plays an important role in furthering other important rights.

The right to property would have been useful in preventing government excesses in the past.

• (1410)

The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms should be amended to guarantee property rights.

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[*Translation*]

ISABELLE AND PAUL DUCHESNAY

Mr. Gilles Rocheleau (Hull—Aylmer): Mr. Speaker, it is always frustrating not to be able to do what one wants. That is what Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay said after they participated in the Olympic Games in Albertville.

These two residents of my riding in Quebec represented France because they were not recognized by Canada. They said that they were very disappointed about the pressure put on them to change their whole program, not to mention that the lowest mark was given to them by the Canadian judge.

It seems that they are criticized for being innovative and wanting to outdo themselves. It seems that they are criticized for being distinct. What a funny coincidence, Mr. Speaker.

I want to extend hearty congratulations to Isabelle and Paul for representing us so well, with such determination and style.

On behalf of Quebecers, I want to give them a gold medal.

Hats off to Isabelle and Paul. Quebec is very proud of you both.

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[*English*]

FORESTRY

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, from March 2 to March 4, members of Canada's forestry community will meet in Ottawa at the National Forest Congress sponsored by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers and the Canadian Forestry Association.

They will discuss implementation of a new national forest strategy. The strategy entitled "Sustainable Forests: A Canadian Commitment" is important for several reasons.

It makes a series of commitments on behalf of decision makers and stakeholders in Canada's forests to adhere to meaningful codes and standards of forestry practices, to