

*Adjournment Debate*

There has never been a sea demonstration like there was on March 30 when 11 trawlers and 125 fishermen and other crew members sailed to demonstrate against foreign overfishing. We have had, in a relatively short time, two emergency debates and one opposition day on a subject that relates to this whole problem.

There is a message. We are as vocal as we can be on this side of the House, the NDP as well as the Liberals, on this subject and I know there are members on the government side who are concerned as well.

In the closing hours of the House somehow it has become a tradition. I have always managed to do this. It is not by intent. It is by accident. I want to stress to the government that as we close this House there are still people who do not have compensation in the short term, and in the long term those who will not have compensation if the fisheries are given a moratorium and who will expect some announcement from the government in the very near future.

I will certainly look forward to that, and hope that in the response there will be some indication given as to what is going to happen this summer.

**Mr. Peter L. McCreath (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Finance and Privatization)):** Madam Speaker, I do want to answer on behalf of the government. I want to say that I am sure that all members of the House share the concerns raised by my hon. friend and none are more concerned about this problem than the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Minister of Employment and Immigration, and the Prime Minister of Canada himself. All three have made it very clear that they will respond, as this government has indeed responded in the past, to this very serious problem. The minister spoke eloquently and passionately last evening on this subject. I spoke, as did my hon. friend for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception.

I want to make it perfectly clear that this government will respond. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has to make a decision with respect to whether that moratorium on the northern cod fishery should be extended. I am sure that he will want to announce the compensation package at that time.

I know my hon. friend would acknowledge that the references that have been made to the Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program and to last year's Catch Failure Program are simply there as testimony to the fact that

this government is aware of the problem, is prepared to respond and will respond.

The minister has said he will be making his decision on northern cod in the near future and that accompanying that decision will be a program of assistance to help those affected. The government will assist these people, as we have done in the past, when it is needed and we will do it again.

The Prime Minister has stated his concern and commitment. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and the Minister of Employment and Immigration have stated their concerns.

I want to assure my hon. friend that the government's objectives are clear. The first is to ensure the conservation of the resource so that we do have a future in that very important fishery off the Grand Banks. The second objective is to assist fishermen, plant workers and families in communities.

The minister of fisheries was forced to lower the total allowable catch of northern cod from 185,000 tonnes to 120,000 tonnes this year. That was not an easy decision to make, but it was made. Earlier this month we learned that it appears the northern cod stock that once supported a total allowable catch of more than 250,000 tonnes is more depleted than what we know from last February. The definitive advice and the decision flowing from it will soon be in the public domain.

The government's record is exemplary and unprecedented. I want to assure my hon. friend that the support that is needed will be here. The Government of Canada, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Prime Minister of Canada hear the cries of the people of Atlantic Canada and they will respond with compassion, with generosity as appropriately as they have done in the past.

## PEARSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

**Mr. Terry Clifford (London—Middlesex):** Madam Speaker, I am delighted to have this opportunity to expand on my question to the Minister of Transport with regard to the development of Terminals 1 and 2 at Toronto's Pearson airport.

I was assured that the project is on stream. I was told that the runways would be developed, but I then learned there has been an extension on it until July 13 with regard to the Terminals 1 and 2 project. I want to give the key reasons why this is important. The federal government can create up to 20,000 job-years of employment in