

The petitioners ask the government to replace or to change the Young Offenders Act so the right punishment and a stronger punishment would go to young offenders who are accused and found guilty.

[Translation]

IMMIGRATION

M. Mac Harb (Ottawa—Centre): Mr. Speaker, I have the pleasure of presenting to this House a petition signed by residents of the Ottawa—Carleton area. The petitioners are asking the government to table a fairer bill for people seeking refuge in Canada.

[English]

THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Mr. Speaker, I wish to present a petition under Standing Order 36. It was co-ordinated by Elizabeth J. Dutton of Thornhill. This petition calls for the government to enact legislation providing for:

(a) a referendum of the people binding upon Parliament to accept or reject constitutional amendments proposed by the government; and

(b) the acceptance or rejection of the proposed amendments to be determined by:

(1) a majority vote of the total votes cast in the whole of Canada together with;

(2) a majority vote in a majority of provinces with the territories being given the status of one province.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Before I recognize more petitions, the Speaker has a ruling to make. If I may impose on the House for a minute, let us hear the ruling and then I will come back.

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MOTION TO ADJOURN UNDER S. O. 52

FISHERIES

Mr. Speaker: I am in receipt of a notice of motion under Standing Order 52(1) from the hon. member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte on an application for an emergency debate.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte): Mr. Speaker, I wish to give notice of my intention to move the adjournment of the House pursuant to Standing Order 52, to discuss a specific matter requiring urgent consideration, namely the plight of fishermen and

fish plant workers in Newfoundland and Labrador who have been without any source of income since May 15.

S. O. 52

These individuals require urgent interim economic assistance to sustain the basics of life until such time as the Government of Canada, under the guidance of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, makes final decisions on a fisheries management program and provides compensation for those who will be displaced as a result of conservation measures.

I have a brief comment. Members of the fishing community in Newfoundland and Labrador and, indeed, throughout Atlantic Canada, are aware that Parliament is scheduled to adjourn within a matter of a few parliamentary sitting days. They are aware that dramatic and drastic action must be taken to sustain the cod species, the cod stocks. They are prepared for the consequences of those decisions but they want, I believe legitimately, their voice to be heard before the House rises for a scheduled summer recess, and that both the problems and the potential that exist in the current environment be discussed in this place.

They sense that the deep calamity they are experiencing is one that has been discussed and has been understood and has been acknowledged and has been dealt with by the Parliament of Canada. It is in that spirit and in the spirit of the exchange in Question Period today that I make this request on an urgent basis, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: First of all, I want to thank the hon. member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte for his notice. I want to say to the House that the House will understand that in other obligations I have had in the past, I would have a very real understanding of the issue, as brought before the House today by the hon. member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte. I know that concern is shared by other members.

I listened very carefully today to the exchange between the right hon. Prime Minister and the hon. member for Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte and I noticed the member referred to it in his intervention at this time. However, I feel that I must adhere carefully to the rule. Despite the fact that this is not only a serious matter but is a matter of intense concern to a lot of people, I am not disposed at this time this afternoon to adjourn the House