

Speaker's Ruling

On Monday, National Sea Products Limited announced layoffs totalling 1,562 jobs or 27 per cent of its workforce. In addition to its Lockeport operation which was closed earlier this year, National Sea will be closing permanently its Canso operation, its St. John's operation, and will be making significant reduction in its North Sydney operation.

Fisheries Products International in Newfoundland, we expect, is soon to announce massive layoffs in Newfoundland. Many smaller plants in Atlantic Canada have also closed. Yesterday, by signing a bill which restricts the import of Atlantic lobsters to the United States, the president has placed the income of thousands of lobster fishermen in jeopardy.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans will soon announce the 1990 groundfish management plan, setting fish quotas for next year. Scientists are predicting a dramatic decline in the amount of fish stocks, and the government's management policies are currently in disarray. The government's response to the crisis has not been spelled out.

There is a sense of foreboding and crisis in families in all Atlantic Canadian fishing communities. It is shaping up to be a very bleak Christmas this year and for Christmases to come.

In light of these circumstances, I urgently request that Your Honour grant permission for a special emergency debate in the House to deal with this pressing and urgent matter facing the future of Atlantic Canada.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Cape Breton Highlands—Canso has raised a matter in which he is petitioning the Chair to set aside the ordinary business of the day and proceed to an emergency debate on an issue which is a very serious one.

I think all hon. members can understand perfectly why the hon. member, coming from that part of the country, is raising this matter.

A great deal of anxiety has already been indicated in this chamber by other hon. members on both sides of the House. There was very extensive debate today on the matter. That debate may very well continue in Question Period and other places. I will be watching with very great care the questions and the responses of the government.

Under the circumstances I am not going to order a debate today. The hon. member may have good reason to apply at another time. I thank the hon. member for bringing the matter to the attention of the House. As I have said, he is open to raise the matter again at another time.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

GOVERNMENT SERVICES RESUMPTION ACT

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House proceeded to the consideration of Bill C-49, an act to provide for the resumption of certain government services, as reported (without amendment) from a legislative committee.

SPEAKER'S RULING—MOTIONS IN AMENDMENT

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There are seven motions in amendment in the name of the hon. member for Saskatoon—Dundurn a 11 motions in the name of the hon. member for Ottawa West set down on the notice paper at report stage of Bill C-49, an act to provide for the resumption of certain government services.

They are all in order but not all will be selected for debate as there is some duplication of content.

Motion Nos. 1, 4, 8, 13 and 16 in the name of the hon. member for Ottawa West are in order and will be grouped for debate. A vote on Motion No. 1 will be applied to Motion Nos. 4, 8, 13 and 16.

Motion Nos. 2 and 3 are virtually identical and the Chair will select for debate only Motion No. 2. It will be voted on separately.

Motion Nos. 5 and 7 and Motion No. 6 are in effect identical motions. I will select for debate Motion Nos. 5 and 7 and a vote on Motion No. 5 will be applied to Motion No. 7. Motion No. 6 will thus not be selected.

Motion Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 all deal with the issue of equal pay for work of equal value. However, Motion No. 10 is a duplicate of Motion No. 9 and therefore it will not be selected for debate. Thus, Motion Nos. 9, 11, 12 and 14 will be grouped together for debate, but they will be voted on as follows:

A vote on Motion No. 9 will be applied to Motion Nos. 11 and 12.