

It is a bitter disappointment to my friend. I can assure him that I will do everything I can to make sure that this gets revived at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Harb: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I spoke with both the government Whip as well as the associate House leader and both gave me their assurances—

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Order, please. I think that all the Chair needs to know is whether there is unanimous consent. I see that there is no unanimous consent.

As for what else was said, asking for better co-operation and so on, I ask hon. members to consult one another and when they have come to some conclusion to notify the Chair and the hon. member can again present his request to the House.

SITTING SUSPENDED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I therefore suspend the sitting until six o'clock, the time for the adjournment motion.

At 5.25 p.m. the sitting of the House was suspended.

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SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 6 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

FISHERIES

Mr. Francis G. LeBlanc (Cape Breton Highlands—Canso): Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to a question I asked of the minister of fisheries exactly three months ago today.

That question related to scientific advice which was released by his DFO scientists concerning the crisis in the Atlantic groundfish stocks. That advice recommended deep cuts in the order of 70 per cent and in some cases as high as 82 per cent in the cod quotas in the

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zones in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the eastern part of the Scotia shelf off of the coast of Cape Breton, those zones which surround my constituency of Cape Breton Highlands—Canso.

The advice by the scientists in November followed similar recommendations which were released earlier in 1992 and which led the minister of fisheries at that time to impose a moratorium on the northern cod fishery off the northeastern coast of Newfoundland, accompanied by a generous program of compensation for the 20,000 fishermen and fish plant workers that were affected in those communities.

The November advice led the minister of fisheries a short time later to impose dramatic quota cuts in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and on the eastern part of the Scotia shelf to the tune of about 70 per cent which will throw a large number, hundreds, of eastern Nova Scotians out of work and will threaten the future of several fishing communities in my riding.

On November 23 I asked the minister to provide details of a compensation plan that he would put in place to assist the people and the communities affected by these quota reductions. The minister at that time did not have a compensation plan in place and he still does not have one today.

What he did on December 18 when he announced the 1993 management plan was to tell those people affected that they would have to be satisfied with the existing programs, mainly unemployment insurance, until such time as the seriousness of the crisis would be better known.

The existing programs were not adequate to deal with the cod moratorium and the crisis in the northern cod fishery in Newfoundland and they are not adequate to deal with the crisis in the gulf and the eastern part of Nova Scotia. They are not adequate to deal with the fisherman from Chéticamp who is facing the loss of his livelihood and who at 50 years of age has invested his entire life savings in his boat and in his fish quota which is now worthless.

They are not adequate to deal with the fisherman from Ballantynes Cove in Antigonish County who is a bona fide fisherman who followed that policy in good faith and is now facing the disappearance of his policy and facing the loss of his licence and again the loss of his livelihood.