

I do not think it would be appropriate to proceed to an emergency debate today.

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Vic Althouse (Mackenzie): Mr. Speaker, as my letter to you reported, European and U.S. actions have resulted in depressed world grain prices and the real incomes of Canadian grain and oilseed producers were at record lows this year. Net incomes were at a record low in the crop year just completed a month and a half ago.

Farmers were continually assured by the government that some defence against these international prices would come forth in a third line of defence. The net income shortfall of more than \$1 billion has not been addressed by the government. The crop year ended one and a half months ago.

If Parliament cannot debate this, the government seems to have the intention of forgetting about it and letting those huge debts that farm families have piled up continue.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: Facts are what I need to have in front of me, and I would ask hon. members to be careful not to stray into debate. There is a reason for that. Under the rules the applicant for an emergency debate can present the case, but other members are not allowed to be recognized to take issue with something that does stray into the question of debate.

The matter is, of course, one of importance and is well understood in this House to be so. However, I point out to the hon. member that there was extensive debate in Question Period today and there may well be in the ensuing number of days in the next week on the issue, which is as I say important, but it would not be appropriate in my view to proceed to an emergency debate tonight.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to Standing Order 52 to request that you give consideration to the following.

It has been almost 20 years since Canada ratified International Labour Organization Convention 87. This freedom of association convention of the UN agency establishes the rights of organized labour. In 1987 the ILO reviewed Canadian back-to-work statutes and ruled that public inconveniences resulting from strikes "cannot justify an abridgement of the fundamental rights

guaranteed by convention 87 unless they reach a point where they affect the life, personal safety or health of all or part of the population".

Nearly one-third of the Public Service Alliance of Canada's bargaining unit has been declared essential, Mr. Speaker, and are not on strike. It appears that Canada is close to breaching this important ILO convention by passing legislation to force those non-essential workers back to work. A debate on the international ramifications of this suggested government action is urgently required, Mr. Speaker, to inform the government of its international commitment and the concerns of this House for the continued respect for these intermittent national conventions.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: I thank the hon. member for giving notice of the matter which she has raised. Again, it is an important matter, as are these matters usually when there is an application for an emergency debate. It may well be that there will be sufficient opportunity, perhaps today or in the coming days, to raise the matter in full debate in the House.

FISHERIES

Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I, too, would seek the indulgence of the House to appeal for positive consideration under Standing Order 52 for an emergency debate.

This involves the fact that the Canadian pink salmon runs are in very large numbers moving through the fishing grounds into the spawning areas in record numbers, and that the processors in British Columbia have refused to buy Canadian fish. They have instead chosen to purchase Alaska surplus pink at very low costs and thereby have deprived the Canadian fishing industry from earning a living on the resource which they have spent so much money and time in developing.

The failure of the processors to buy Canadian resource while buying the American surplus stocks has resulted in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans not providing an adequate opening on the pink salmon runs. This, of course, will harm—and it is happening right now, harming the people in the fishing industry, harming the communities—and could indeed within the next few days harm spawning channels where massive surpluses of pink salmon move on to those channels and disrupt the spawning process for the preceding fish that have gone on.