
Friday, April 16, 2004.

10 o'clock a.m.

Prayers.

Hon. Mr. Fitch laid upon the table of the House a document entitled *Point Lepreau Refurbishment Review, Dr. Robin Jeffrey, April 2004.*

On motion of Hon. Mr. Green, seconded by Hon. P. Robichaud, RESOLVED, that the membership of the Legislative Administration Committee be amended by deleting the name of Mr. S. Graham and substituting Mr. McGinley.

And the question being put, it was resolved in the affirmative.

Hon. Mr. Green announced that, it was the intention of government to resume the adjourned debate on Motion 77, following which the House would resolve itself into a Committee of Supply to take into consideration the estimates of the Department of Finance.

It was agreed by unanimous consent to vary the hours of sitting, to recess at 12.30 o'clock p.m., to resume at 1 o'clock p.m., and to adjourn at 4.30 o'clock p.m.

Debate resumed on Motion 77, moved by Hon. Mr. Alward, seconded by Hon. P. Robichaud, as follows:

WHEREAS commercial fisheries are an essential part of the economic and cultural life of coastal New Brunswick;

WHEREAS on March 25th, 2004, the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced his intention to stabilize the allocations for over 29 Atlantic fisheries, including Gulf Snow Crab and released a Policy Framework for the Management of Fisheries on Canada's East Coast, a comprehensive blueprint to guide fisheries management;

WHEREAS this Policy Framework states that fisheries management decision-making processes must be, and must be seen to be, fair, transparent and subject to clear and consistent rules and procedures;

WHEREAS in 2003, the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced a three-year management plan for Gulf Snow Crab that set fleet and sector allocations and shares for 2003-2005 which recognized New Brunswick's provincial historic shares of the fishery;

WHEREAS on April 1st, 2004, the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans unilaterally altered the three-year crab management plan at the expense of New Brunswick's provincial historic shares and in direct contradiction of the principles of the Atlantic Fisheries Policy Framework, and;

WHEREAS the effect of this decision is the reallocation of 320 tons of New Brunswick Gulf Snow Crab to another jurisdiction with a direct loss of \$2.1 M to New Brunswick fishermen and a loss of nearly \$6M in economic activity for the province for the year 2004 alone.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly express its support for the principle of allocation decision-making processes being fair, transparent and subject to clear and consistent rules and procedures as contained in the Atlantic Fisheries Policy Framework.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge the federal government to reaffirm the provincial historic shares enshrined in the 2003-2005 Gulf Snow Crab management plan, respect prior commitments to this province and restore the 2003-2005 New Brunswick allocations, so as to be consistent with the Atlantic Fisheries Policy Framework.

And after some time, due to the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, Mr. Holder, the Deputy Speaker, took the chair as Acting Speaker.

At 12.30 o'clock p.m., Mr. Holder, the Deputy Speaker, interrupted the debate and left the chair.

1 o'clock p.m.

Mr. Holder, the Deputy Speaker resumed the chair as Acting Speaker.

And after some time, the debate being ended and the question being put, Motion 77 was resolved in the affirmative.

The House, according to Order, resolved itself into a Committee of Supply with Mr. C. LeBlanc in the chair.

And after some time, Mr. Holder, took the chair.

And after some further time, Mr. C. LeBlanc resumed the chair.

And after some further time spent in Committee of Supply, Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair and Mr. C. LeBlanc, the Chairman, after requesting that Mr. Speaker revert to Presentations of Committee Reports, reported that the Committee had had under consideration the matters referred to them, had made some progress therein, and asked leave to sit again.

Pursuant to Standing Rule 78.1, Mr. Speaker then put the question on the motion deemed to be before the House, that the report be concurred in, and it was resolved in the affirmative.

And then, 4.32 o'clock p.m., the House adjourned.