

Search and Rescue Services

establish more clearly the fine line of responsibility for policy making, planning, programming, monitoring and review of search and rescue. The line of responsibility would run from the lead Minister, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Blais), through a single chairman of the interdepartmental committee supported by an independent secretariat to the line departments.

● (1810)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please. I beg the indulgence of the Parliamentary Secretary. There was a mixup on the Chair's part as to who the next speaker should be. The Chair recognized the Parliamentary Secretary but at the same time the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) rose. The Chair should have recognized, in all fairness in terms of the usual rotation of speakers in the House, the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich.

Having recognized the Hon. Member, I cannot unrecognize him strictly speaking, at this time. I would ask him, though, without prejudicing his right to speak further in the debate, if he would now cede to the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich.

Mr. Hudecki: I will follow your directions, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Chair is not actually directing the Hon. Member. I am explaining the situation the Chair has put itself into, not in a deliberate way, I suppose, but I appreciate the Hon. Member's co-operation and the Hon. Member reserves his right to speak after the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich if he so wishes.

Mr. Hudecki: I feel I should reserve the right to speak again after the Hon. Member has completed his remarks.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Such should be clearly understood. I now recognize the Hon. Member for Esquimalt-Saanich.

Mr. Donald W. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary.

I will draw to your attention. Mr. Speaker, the importance of this matter as far as the West Coast is concerned in terms of numbers. However, in a matter of this importance, it is vital that there be advance notice of the appearance on the Order Paper of motions of this sort. In fact, concerning Private Members' days, I know the Table is having trouble lining people up two or three days in advance. However, last night at six o'clock, the Hon. Member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon) was informed that his motion would be on for debate today. A motion of such importance deserves more notice than this. There is a great deal of preparation involved. There is statistical preparation. I plead with the Chair and the Table to

twist arms a little more strongly and see that things are organized on Monday so that we know, well in advance, that a certain motion is coming forward.

I did mention to Your Honour that I would indicate the importance of the motion in statistical terms. It has been estimated that something of the order of 200,000 pleasure boats sail waters on the West Coast and that 5,000 to 6,000 commercial fishermen also work those waters. I would say that we are roughly talking somewhere in the order of half a million people whose lives are at the whim of the elements. For that reason, it is vitally important that we have an improved system of search and rescue on the West and East Coasts.

I am delighted that we had this broadening of the motion because it gives us an opportunity to insist that this study be carried out on both coasts. Do I have until 6.15 or 6.17, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): I suppose the intent was to provide for the whole hour. The Hon. Member for Richmond-South Delta (Mr. Siddon) did refer, in his motion, to 6.15. I take it that he meant 6.17 p.m., which would take us to the full hour.

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): That gives me two minutes to add a few comments. We have already had the tragedy of the *Ocean Ranger* brought to our attention. We have also heard mention of the Christmas tragedy of the *Lee Wang Zin*. While the *Prinzendam* was a tragedy in terms of a vessel, it was happily not a tragedy in terms of human lives. In that instance, however, we had to rely on the U.S. Coast Guard, and that is unfortunate.

This highlights in a manner which we apparently are unable to do in a debate in the House the importance of a broadened search and rescue system on both coasts. That being the case, along with the one report we have seen and the recommendations that it made, I think it is worth mentioning that there were something in the order of 53 recommendations put forward by the evaluation team. It indicated for example, that faster response comes in more often than not. We talked about the 32 hours before anyone responded to the tragedy of the Taiwanese vessel, the *Lee Wang Zin*.

Our time has almost expired and therefore I move:

That the question be now put.

Mr. Hudecki: I was given assurance that I could speak.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): The Chair is prepared to recognize the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary but our time has now expired. Therefore this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at eleven o'clock a.m.

At 6.17 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.