

Adjournment Debate

hon. member chose to take a statement in the October, 1975, issue of *Consumer Contact* out of context. The sentence in question appeared near the end of a two-page article entitled "Importance of Planning a Vacation" which was directed at those Canadians contemplating a vacation.

If the hon. member had read three lines further in the *Consumer Contact* article in question he would have seen the following:

You can only bring specific amounts of any given item into Canada without paying customs duties, however, and it is wise to find out these customs regulations before you leave on your trip.

By his question, however, the hon. member appeared to be comparing the prices in Canadian duty free shops with prices in Canadian department stores. This is clearly an invalid comparison as Canadian Consumers are unable to purchase goods in Canadian duty free shops.

I am advised that officials of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, prior to writing this article, received suggestions from various sources within the travel industry. Several of these sources indicated that there appears to be an almost automatic expectation on the part of travellers that goods normally associated with a particular country can be obtained less expensively in the duty free shops of that country than in Canadian stores. While this may be a reasonable expectation it would appear that some goods may be purchased in Canadian retail outlets at a price lower than that charged in the country being visited.

The sources for the article indicated that true bargains are to be found in liquor and cigarettes. There is a valid reason for this. We all have a pretty good idea of what these items cost. On the other hand, how many people know the prices in Canada of brand name cameras, watches or perfumes?

As to the hon. member's question on the progress of an inquiry into duty free establishments, I am advised that the director of investigation and research did write to the hon. member explaining the confidentially requirements of the act. I am therefore unable to give any details of the member's request for action under the Combines Investigation Act.

NATIONAL DEFENCE—REQUEST FOR REDEPLOYMENT OF AIR AND SEA RESCUE FORCES IN ATLANTIC REGION

Mr. Jack Marshall (Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I apologize for bringing the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) back so late at night, but the combination of questions and motions I and other of my colleagues have brought to the minister indicate our concern with regard to the lack of capability of the air and sea rescue unit in the Atlantic region to react to problems being faced by the fishermen in the province of Newfoundland and off the coast of Newfoundland, and its inability to take the necessary action to save those who, unfortunately, were lost over the past two or three months.

I can understand the minister's dilemma and the fact that it is not easy to redeploy forces at little or no cost. However, it is very obvious from the experience I have had in the military that the element of the air and sea rescue unit in Halifax or Summerside cannot react to the prob-

lems which exist because of the particular conditions in the province of Newfoundland.

I feel, even with the depressed state of the economy, that consideration should be given to enlarging the element of the air and sea rescue unit so that we would be assured that precautions could be taken so that we would be in a position to face these problems. Even from the point of view of the economy, and more particularly from the point of view of the fact that hopefully the Canadian government will extend our fisheries zone 200 miles, we must start the planning so that we can participate and carry out surveillance measures after the Law of the Sea Conference.

I have suggested to the minister, and thankfully he said he would look into it, that if we are not able because of restrictions on the economy to enlarge the Canadian forces a simple solution to the problem would be to employ the reserves which are supposed to be a back-up for the Canadian forces. Over a year ago the minister indicated they would expand the auxiliary reserves and that he would consider the establishment of a unit of the reserve forces in Newfoundland. I can tell him, from my estimation of the situation, that we have at the SAC base on the west coast of Newfoundland at Stephenville a radar base that is vacant—the minister knows about the situation there—which would be a good training ground and a good place to establish a base in that part of Newfoundland so that we could train personnel to perform the surveillance activities for back-up to the Canadian forces.

The most important thing is that we appreciate the problem which exists and prepare for it. While I can understand the difficulties the minister faces, the fact remains that in the past two months we lost six fishermen. It is amazing to me why they could not be located and saved. It would seem this was because of the lack of capacity of the air and sea rescue unit of our Canadian forces.

● (2220)

What I am doing is asking the minister to look at it a little more closely, to make a study, which I will help him with, and to look at the three strategic locations involved which could be available. Hopefully he will direct the Chief of the Defence Staff to direct people within the Canadian armed forces to look into three areas: the logistic support which is there, the infra structure support which is there, and to try to determine the mission that they are going to have to look after in the near future when we extend our 200 mile fishery zone, and to consider it realistically. Hopefully in a spirit of comradeship they can accept the suggestion I have made in a spirit of co-operation and expertise.

Hon. James Richardson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I should like first to compliment the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall) on his very obviously deep concern for the welfare and safety of the fishermen in his region. That is a concern I share, and I think it has been demonstrated over recent months and years that the Canadian armed forces have played their part in protecting or helping fishermen in the region who have got into difficulties for one reason or another.