

this movement would be facilitated if Canada were to ratify the Law of the Sea.

It leaves the minister of fisheries alone to invoke the Law of the Sea while at the same time the Government of Canada to which the minister belongs is not ratifying it. Does it make sense?

I will make my third point very briefly. The Government of Canada went to the Rio conference after successive preparatory meetings in the two years preceding it with the intention of resolving the question of fisheries. All it managed to do at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development was to agree to hold another conference.

I see you rising, Mr. Speaker. We will leave it at that until the next time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I did not see the clock so that the hon. member would have at least five minutes. He will have five minutes next time the motion is before us in the order of precedence.

The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business is now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 93, the order is dropped to the bottom of the list of order of precedence on the Order Paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

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

CANADIAN FORCES RESERVE

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I just finished speaking on a motion of national importance and I rise to speak on another subject, an entirely different subject but in my mind another subject of considerable national importance. This is a subject of the Canadian Forces, national defence and specifically the Canadian Forces Reserves.

I am rising on a follow-up to a question I asked the Minister of National Defence on November 30, 1992, a few days after the Auditor General's report came out. In trying to be as non-partisan as possible about this matter, and I am very serious, I had major concerns about the

observations that the Auditor General made in his report released on November 24 regarding the Canadian Forces Reserves.

I had concerns because of the debt and of the seriousness of the concerns, some of which may have agreement and some which I think we need to have a very close look at. I am concerned about the growing importance of the reserve force in Canada as part of the total force concept.

Since 1987 the reserves in Canada, including the militia, the naval reserves, the communications command reserve and the air reserve have been a total part of Canada's defence effort and part of our manning. The total force concept seriously came into effect in 1987 and we started with roughly 30,000 reserves.

Right now—and I am going to concentrate on peacekeeping—the militia makes up 60 per cent of the army. In the last couple of months the media has focused on peacekeeping and the necessity for Canada to have a very close look at its peacekeeping forces.

The charge was made by the Auditor General that the reserves have a problem with accountability. They are not equipped properly. But the most serious charge made was that the reserves would not be ready.

I think the minister has to respond to that, because I find it inconsistent that the reserves now in peacekeeping make up 12.5 per cent of the force. Right now, 300 Newfoundlanders are going to Winnipeg to be trained to participate in peacekeeping. That is not a bad readiness factor.

Because of the importance of the total force concept and reserves on which we spent \$750 million last year, I simply want the Minister of National Defence to address this issue and inform the Canadian public how serious these charges are and what she intends to do about them.

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Health and Welfare): Mr. Speaker, I would like to outline the defence policy statement of April, 1992 to my colleague. It makes it quite clear that a highly motivated, well trained, properly equipped reserve force, capable of assuming a greater role in the defence of Canada is integral to the success of the forces' operation and activities, both at home and abroad.