

*Naval Ranks*

If the minister will now reverse his decision with respect to a replacement for the Centurion tank so that in that case too he will be consistent with earlier plans, he will earn enthusiastic applause from this side of the House.

**Mr. Doug Rowland (Selkirk):** Mr. Speaker, I am not entirely sure, as a serving officer in the naval reserve, that the new guidelines on conflict of interest do not disqualify me from speaking on this subject, but I am going to anyway.

First of all, the announcement that the government will be honouring the commitment it made to the Royal Canadian Navy at the time of unification is welcome. There are two important reasons for so doing. The first is the very practical reason that fleet units of the Canadian Armed Forces operate with naval elements of other countries where traditional ranks are used, and this kind of arrangement will avoid confusion. It is also very difficult to explain to someone not within the services how important something as symbolic as a rank can be to a person who is in the forces, but I assure hon. members that this is an extremely important consideration with respect to morale in any forces unit. For those two reasons especially I welcome the minister's announcement.

It is interesting to note that the last major occasion upon which a general was in command of a fleet involved the Spanish Armada. I do not know whether you can tie the results of that naval engagement to the fact that a general was commanding the Spanish fleet, but it is something worthy of consideration.

I hope that this evidence that the minister is devoting some consideration to the naval forces of this country will result in his continuing his consideration and re-examining his decision to cut back, in effect, on the amount of equipment made available to maritime command for the carrying out of its duties. It seems to me that the decision to reduce equipment, such as the number of Trackers by 50 per cent, is ridiculous at a time when Canada's maritime interests are expanding. I refer to our interest in the management of our ocean resources, both mineral and living, and our interest in controlling pollution of the sea lanes. With this kind of consideration going on in Canada and the expanded interest in maritime matters, this is certainly not the time to be cutting back on equipment at the disposal of maritime command of the Canadian Armed Forces. I hope the minister will reconsider that part of his decision relating to the modernization and re-equipping of the Canadian Armed Forces.

[Translation]

**Mr. Gérard Laprise (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Richardson) has just made a very important statement though brief.

As for the Canadian troops, they are proud, and rightly so, of their ranks. The efforts they make, the risks they take, and especially their devotion to duty has won them respect throughout the world. To my mind, the decision just reached by the minister, which goes into effect today, is very important for our troops and will no doubt please them.

[Mr. Hellyer.]

[English]

**FISHERIES****NOVA SCOTIA INSHORE LOBSTER FISHERY—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION**

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43 to seek unanimous consent to move a motion in a case of urgent and pressing necessity, namely, the fact that the inshore lobster fishermen of Nova Scotia have seen the price that they receive for their lobsters drop from \$2.70 per pound a year ago to \$1.65 a pound today and their catch is 30 per cent lower than it was a year ago, all of which is the direct result of fishing pressures by two large companies, aided and abetted by the federal Department of the Environment.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member knows the practice relating to the proposing of Standing Order 43 motions, namely, that there should be no argument advanced, only a brief statement of the facts, if even that is required. The hon. member should indicate as quickly as possible the terms of his motion.

**Mr. Howard:** Mr. Speaker, I had coincidentally reached that point, but I thought it necessary to enlighten the government about the situation in the hope they would agree to the motion.

**An hon. Member:** Order!

**Mr. Howard:** And some Conservatives as well. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands (Mr. Douglas):

That the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry be asked immediately to commence a review of the lobster fishery in Nova Scotia.

I will leave out the rest of the motion since it has implications with regard to lack of action on the part of the government.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Speaker:** There is not unanimous consent.

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**GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION****LEVEL OF SPENDING BY DEPARTMENTS—REQUEST FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO MOVE MOTION**

**Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg South Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 43 on a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. In view of Canada's spiralling inflation rate, which is among the highest in the western world and is in large measure caused by excessive government spending, I move, seconded by the hon. member for Portage (Mr. Masniuk):