

That this House request the Prime Minister to place for discussion on the agenda of the Constitutional First Ministers' meeting in March, 1983, the amending formula under Section 38 of the Constitution Act, 1981, and that every effort be made to change the amending formula in this Section to require two-thirds of the Provinces having 80 per cent of the population instead of 50 per cent of the population of the Provinces, and that the opting out feature be deleted.

I do not have a seconder, Madam Speaker, so I do not want you to put the motion.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some Hon. Members: No.

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THE LATE DR. LEN COWLEY

EXPRESSION OF CONDOLENCES

Miss Coline Campbell (South West Nova): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43 and move, seconded by the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath):

That this House express its sympathy to the family of the Late Dr. Len Cowley, Assistant Deputy Minister of Atlantic Fisheries Service.

I am sure that we express the sympathy of all the Members of the House of Commons who have dealt with him on matters relating to the fishing industry. He will be greatly missed for his outstanding contribution and his dedication to the East Coast fishing industry. I ask unanimous consent on this motion.

Madam Speaker: I am sure the House, through the voice of the Hon. Member, has expressed feelings which will very much touch the family of the late Dr. Cowley.

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

THE PHILIPPINES—OPPOSITION TO REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION TREATY

Mr. Dan Heap (Spadina): Madam Speaker, I rise under the provisions of Standing Order 43. Many Canadians of Filipino origin, and others, have protested against President Ferdinand Marcos' oppressive dictatorship in the Philippines. Producers of opposition newspapers, clergy and lay leaders of the Churches, and officers of labour unions, have been intimidated, arrested, and held without trial, even though martial law was supposedly lifted. Marcos has asked Canada for an extradition treaty so that he can bring back residents of Canada to the Philippines to be arrested for opposing him. Now Prime Minister Trudeau (Mr. Trudeau) has announced that he will visit Marcos in January. Therefore I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill (Mr. Blaikie):

• (1415)

That the Prime Minister assure this Parliament that when he visits President Marcos he will refuse to discuss an extradition treaty and will ask President

Oral Questions

Marcos to release political prisoners and cease intimidation of church leaders, union leaders and opposition leaders.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Some Hon. Members: No.

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

SEARCH AND RESCUE

CROSS REPORT—LACK OF CONTINGENCY PLAN

Hon. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Defence who yesterday tabled in the House an interdepartmental report on search and rescue in Canada, called the Cross Report. Among other things it describes search and rescue as confused and poorly managed, and in some very strongly worded recommendations it speaks to the fact that Canada lacks a contingency plan to deal with a major marine or air disaster.

Madam Speaker, my question to the Minister of National Defence, who I presume is the lead Minister in this area, is this. The *Ocean Ranger* went down last February with the loss of 84 lives. Off Nova Scotia we will have four rigs with anywhere up to 1,500 men, and off Newfoundland we will have three rigs with anywhere up to 900 men. Given all that, why do we not have in place at the present time a contingency plan to deal with an emergency at sea or in the air?

Hon. J. Gilles Lamontagne (Minister of National Defence): Madam Speaker, first of all I would like to correct the Hon. Member when he said that the search and rescue operation was confused and that the people manning it were not competent or were badly trained. I think the Cross Report, if you have read it, says completely the contrary. The people are very devoted, motivated, well trained and competent people who are risking their lives on many occasions for search and rescue operations. I think that is what it said.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Lamontagne: As far as the East Coast is concerned, I know the concerns of the Hon. Member because he has questioned me in the House quite a few times on this subject, and I have written also to him quite a few times concerning search and rescue on the East Coast. He asked at one point why we would not put fixed wing aircraft in Newfoundland. This I will answer in a moment.

On the second question about our SAR resources on the East Coast, I think in the Cross Report it is well stated on many occasions that the facilities and the capabilities of search and rescue on the East Coast are well located. The Report does not suggest relocating any of our facilities at the present time.