

S.O. 21

Manitobans by the Federal Leader of the New Democratic Party at a recent convention of the Manitoba wing of his Party in Winnipeg, and also the spontaneous support of all my anglophone colleagues in the Liberal Caucus for the position of the Right Hon. Prime Minister on this issue.

As for the Official Opposition, we cannot question the good faith of its Leader, but the profound hostility shown by some Members of his Caucus and prospective Party candidates to Franco-Manitobans and the French language is eloquent proof that francophones still cannot depend on the Progressive Conservative Party to defend their language rights, and the Leader of that Party will do well to remember before he starts to woo Quebec voters in the next election campaign that Quebec's motto is: "Je me souviens".

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[English]

MARINE TRANSPORT

CN MARINE VESSELS—PROVISION OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR CREWS

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, marine workers face fatal hypothermia due to exposure in cold water, especially if forced to abandon ship at sea. Recent sea disasters such as the *Ocean Ranger* make stronger safety regulations essential.

Prince Edward Island employees of CN Marine sail steamships to distant drydocks each Spring when ice and weather conditions render voyages hazardous. Such employees need immersion suits that provide both hypothermic protection and buoyancy. They also need inflatable life rafts that, unlike existing lifeboats, can be launched in stormy conditions. Yet Transport Canada's regulations permit CN Marine vessels headed for drydock to carry only conventional lifeboats, and those inflatable life rafts in use are often removed from ships prior to sailing for drydock.

The Canadian Brotherhood of Railway, Transport and General Workers has lobbied since 1981 for legislation requiring all CN Marine crews to be provided with proper survival equipment. The \$50,000 cost to equip P.E.I. vessels would be a small price to pay to prevent tragic loss of life. I urge the Minister of Transport (Mr. Axworthy) to update relevant safety regulations with all possible speed and urgency.

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[Translation]

FRANCO-MANITOBAN RIGHTS

ALLEGED HOSTILE ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN M.P.S

Mr. Jean-Guy Dubois (Lotbinière): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to say that I entirely agree with the comments made by my colleague from Montmorency-Orléans, and I would like to quote here in the House a short report that

appeared in the newspaper *Le Devoir* on February 28, 1984, which said: "According to three of the five Federal Conservative Members from Manitoba, the Ottawa resolution requesting that Province to guarantee French rights will have no effect, even if it receives the support of all three political parties."

The three Members are the Hon. Member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta), who is here in the House today, the Hon. Member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Clark) and the Hon. Member for Portage-Marquette (Mr. Mayer). According to *Le Devoir*, the three "also said they felt rather uncomfortable about the position taken by their Leader, Mr. Brian Mulroney." "We are not a bunch of sheep," commented Mr. Mayer. In the House, Mr. Mulroney stated that when the Leader of the Progressive Conservative Party speaks, he speaks for all members. However, the Member for Portage-Marquette revealed that at a caucus meeting, several members informed the Leader that they did not share his opinion, and that was the quote from the newspaper *Le Devoir*.

It seems there is now a situation where there are divergent and dissenting views. Mr. Speaker, I see one of those Progressive Conservative Members here in the House, and I would like him as well as some of his colleagues whose names I mentioned earlier to rise in the House and say whether they are for or against the rights of francophones in Manitoba. Are they for or against bilingualism? If they are against francophones and against bilingualism, I would ask their Leader to expel all three, as well as other members who refused to follow the Party's line on bilingualism. With all this dissidence and divergence of opinions, the Progressive Conservative Party is in a state of confusion, and as my Hon. colleague from Montmorency-Orléans (Mr. Duclos) so aptly said, the motto of Quebec is: "Je me souviens", and Quebecers will certainly remember the Progressive Conservative Party!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

FINANCE

EXCHANGE VALUE OF DOLLAR—GOVERNMENT POLICY

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. In his absence I will direct it to the Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance said, as reported in *The Globe and Mail* for March 7:

I am not one spending my nights up worrying that the dollar is not at 81 cents. I can assure you . . . interest rate levels in Canada have nothing to do with the value of the dollar.

Does this indicate a new policy on behalf of the Government? The dollar today is trading below 79 cents U.S., 78.89.