

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Minister of Transport says "Wake up, John". Why don't you go back to sleep, John?

OVERFISHING BY FRENCH VESSELS

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, what was the Prime Minister saying when he said in this House it is a matter for Parliament and Parliament alone? In this bizarre personal letter—

Mr. Crosbie: Rip Van Winkle! You have been asleep for 12 years.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):—that the Prime Minister wrote to the Minister of Transport regarding the fishing agreement with France, he said the negotiations with France will address "overfishing in the disputed zone".

Mr. Crosbie: Absolutely.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Even the Minister of Transport knows that the disputed zone is the 200-mile zone disputed by France and Canada around St. Pierre and Miquelon. Is that statement true and, if so, on what clause of the agreement with France was the Prime Minister basing that statement?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister was very clear and there is no question about that. This Government has always worked together with the provinces on issues such as energy, fisheries, forestry, and things of that nature.

With respect to the second part of the question and overfishing, perhaps I might enlighten the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition and quote from the letter that the Prime Minister sent to the Minister of Transport. It says as follows: "Any further agreement to allot cod to France in the Canadian fishing zone will be dependent upon, (a), France agreeing to binding arbitration on the boundary in the disputed zone and, (b), joint agreement on a total allowable catch for the fishermen in the disputed zone during the period of arbitration in order to solve the problem of overfishing."

CANADA-FRANCE AGREEMENT

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the problem with that is that it does not accord with the agreement between France and Canada. The agreement says "the parties will meet in order to initiate negotiations establishing the annual fishing quotas for French vessels in Canadian waters"—not "disputed waters" but "Canadian waters".

Mr. Crosbie: We say they are Canadian.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): The Deputy Prime Minister seems to be sadly ill-informed on this issue.

Oral Questions

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I ask him, has Canada not waived its rights to contest French overfishing in disputed waters, that 200-mile limit around St. Pierre and Miquelon, by the very wording of the treaty with France?

Mr. Mazankowski: Not at all.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Is that not the case? If it is, it is a lousy agreement.

Mr. Mazankowski: Not at all.

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, of course that is certainly not the case. If one reads what the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition quotes from we see that it says, "a *procès-verbal* establishing the annual fishing quotas for French vessels in Canadian waters for the period 1988-1991 inclusive" shall be the subject of the interim agreement.

• (1425)

Canadian waters are those waters which we claim in the area 3PS. If it were not for his old friend, the mischief maker in the other place who set him up for this question, who, along with the Hon. Member, was an architect of this infamous 1972 treaty, we would not have a problem today.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Read your agreement.

ALLOCATION OF FISH QUOTA TO FRANCE

Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate): Mr. Speaker, how much more confusion can the Government heap on an already confusing situation? Cabinet Ministers have stood in this House, as all Members know, and said that not one more fish will be given to France unless Newfoundland agrees. The Prime Minister stood in the House yesterday and made a 180 degree turn to the right, to the starboard, and said that Newfoundland has no veto.

Is the Deputy Prime Minister aware that the Minister of Transport said that no fish will be given to France unless Newfoundland agrees? He said it must be in the best interests of the people of Newfoundland "or there will be no deal". Eat your heart out!" Are the Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister now saying to the Minister of Transport, "Eat your own words"?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Get back to wheat.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition suggests that I should get back to wheat. I know a hell of a lot more about wheat than he does, and I know more about fish than he does.