

*Oral Questions***ORAL QUESTION PERIOD**

[English]

FISHERIES**CANADA—FRANCE AGREEMENT—EFFECT ON
NEWFOUNDLAND**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister ended the last session of this Parliament by selling out Canada to the United States. The Prime Minister began this session of Parliament by selling out the fishermen of Newfoundland to France. Mr. Speaker, how does the Prime Minister really have the nerve to produce a Throne Speech which says that his Government will reduce “predatory overfishing” when his Government at the same time is giving France carte blanche to destroy our Atlantic fisheries by sanctioning overfishing by the French? Why this hypocrisy in the Throne Speech at the expense of the people of Newfoundland?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, presumably the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is referring to the agreement just reached between Canada and France which after 12 years results in the question of the territorial boundaries of Canada and France and St. Pierre and Miquelon being sent for final adjudication to an international court, a great achievement which has taken 12 years, Mr. Speaker, to accomplish.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there has been no sanctioning of overfishing in this Canada–France agreement. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, the result on the south coast of Newfoundland in the disputed area of the 3PS results in France agreeing to take 10,000 less pounds of fish each year over the next three years than they had before announced they were going to take. These are disputed waters, not Canadian waters, Mr. Speaker. We have no authority over these waters until an international tribunal deals with the issue, and I am glad to say, Mr. Speaker, that we achieved an agreement that results in us having to agree to less quotas of fish for France in Canadian waters under the 1972 treaty of the hon. gentleman’s Government; this the Leader of the Opposition in Newfoundland had suggested we do when he said that we were offering unreasonably small amounts to the French, which of course is a comment that the Hon. Leader of the Opposition might check upon with the Leader of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I would have thought that the hon. gentleman would have been defending the fisheries of Newfoundland instead of trying to justify the diplomatic note sent to France which justifies and sanctions that overfishing in favour of the French.

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ENERGY**HIBERNIA OIL FIELD DEVELOPMENT**

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, we all read the Throne Speech carefully. I wasn’t able to find many of those “pending commitments”, to use the term of the Minister of Finance, during May, during the campaign and endorsed by the Prime Minister during the campaign. I would like to ask the Prime Minister what happened to all those megaprojects which were announced that were supposed to help the various regions of our country, and specifically what happened to Hibernia which was supposed to bring untold wealth to Atlantic Canada?

Where is the deal that was supposed to be signed, sealed and delivered by March 31, and why is Hibernia not mentioned in the Throne Speech? Why is the budget of the Minister of Finance not being allowed to precede, or rather is being delayed until after the Newfoundland election? I will ask this of the Minister of Trade if he wants to answer on behalf of the people of Canada and the people of Newfoundland.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer the right hon. gentleman in respect of Hibernia, keeping in mind his earlier statement when he was opposed to the megaproject, and I take it that he was also therefore opposed to Hibernia. That being the case, I want to inform the right hon. gentlemen that—

An Hon. Member: Oh, oh!

Mr. Epp: —that on Hibernia I met with the sponsors of Hibernia shortly after I was appointed to this Ministry. We went through the various aspects of Hibernia. I pointed out the federal Government’s ongoing commitment to the Hibernia project and the statement of principles. We examined the statement of principles whether we could sign them on or before March 31, 1989. It was agreed that the legal documentation as well as the testing of the equity market would take more time.

We did put forward a statement that the federal Government, the provincial Governments and the sponsors are committed to the Hibernia project and that the