

may appear to Rambo Broadbent. I apologize to the sole member of the NDP who is in the House if I have offended his Leader.

The third option is negotiation, something which appears almost foreign to the NDP way of thinking tonight. It is the only reasonable option. It is the only courageous option, an option which the Liberals were afraid to take or even consider. Getting the French to agree to go to international third party arbitration is a major achievement. I might even say that it is a major breakthrough. It is an historic event. This gives us a chance to undo the harm caused by the 1972 agreement and the unholy pre-election 1984 agreement. Negotiations will involve give and take. We should be prepared to pay a small price in order to get the French into arbitration. If we fail, then we will never have full sovereignty over our waters. If we fail to stop the French from overfishing it will continue. The future of the south coast of Newfoundland depends on our coming up with a negotiated settlement.

In the process the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the industry have been consulted at every stage. Our Government's first and foremost commitment and obligation is to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. If as a result of our discussions over the past few months with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the fishing industry it is determined that the cost is too great, then there will be no agreement, and we in Nova Scotia will join with our Newfoundland colleagues in saying that there will be no agreement. It is as simple as that. Both the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the industry will continue to be involved in ongoing and continuous negotiations.

I would now like to say a few words about misinformation. I listened tonight to the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker) and to the Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe (Mr. Tobin) who attacked the Hon. Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie). Where were those two Members when the 1972 and 1984 agreements were entered into? Where were they then with their fine rhetoric? In fact, where are they now? I do not even see them in the House after they moved a motion to continue the debate all evening. They are not even here to listen. They had the help of their socialist Rambos, the NDP gunboat diplomacy led by Rambo Broadbent, the Colonel Gaddafi of the NDP. Where are they now? Where were they when the Government was giving fish stocks in perpetuity and signing agreements which turned their backs on overfishing?

I listened tonight to the Hon. Member for Bonavista—Conception—Trinity (Mr. Johnson) and the Hon. Member for Burin—St. George's (Mr. Price). I was proud to listen to their speeches. They are good and fine representatives from Newfoundland.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Comeau: They want to see this issue resolved. They pulled no punches tonight. They knew where they were coming

from. They were speaking on behalf of the fishermen of Newfoundland.

With respect to Georges Bank, we sent that problem to third party arbitration. Let me say to Hon. Members that this was a fine agreement. If an agreement cannot be reached by gunboat diplomacy, it sometimes pays to go to negotiation.

I would now like to talk about misinformation. The Leader of the NDP made a fine speech. It was probably written by one of his assistants in order to make the national news. His speech was full of misinformation, as usual. He mentioned the issue of having 15,000 extra tonnes of quota, which is simply not true. I wish he were here to listen to what I am saying now. However, he left just after making his speech. His research assistant who wrote his speech did not do his homework. The 15,000 tonnes was a figure mentioned in the 1987 Atlantic Groundfish Management Plan. All I ask the Leader of the NDP to do is to have his assistant read the plan. It is very simple. It is not a big project, if he can find the time.

I will say this. Rambo Broadbent never lets the facts affect what he has to say. He said what he wanted to say in spite of the facts.

When the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—East Richmond (Mr. Dingwall) ran out of things to say he started making up things. He quoted from what he called a secret document. If he were in the House right now I would ask him to table that secret document. If he has one, then he should table it. He should put his paper where his mouth is.

While we are on the subject of Rambos, the President of National Sea raised the rhetoric today to the point of racism. I would like to quote what he said as reported in an article which I read in *The Chronicle-Herald* today. He said: "I hope the Government gets a lot of votes in Quebec for being so nice to France". Mr. Speaker, you are from Quebec.

[Translation]

and Quebecers had nothing to do with it. The President of National Sea had no business dragging Quebec voters into this affair.

● (2440)

[English]

I wish to apologize on behalf of Nova Scotians, because this was not coming from a Nova Scotian. This is a transplanted Bay Street lawyer who came down to Nova Scotia and who thinks he is speaking on behalf of Nova Scotia. He will pay the price for this type of thing, because he is not speaking on behalf of Nova Scotia. This is not acceptable to the people of Nova Scotia. On behalf of all Nova Scotians I apologize to all Francophones of Canada. Again I say that it was not coming from a Nova Scotian, but a transplanted Bay Street lawyer, a friend of Senator Michael Kirby.

Mr. Crosbie: Machiavelli.