

*Supply*

In legal terms, within the Department of Justice, one would find someone describing the arrangement, as I did, as "mutual forbearance"; but, they drew a line from either coast to separate St. Pierre and Miquelon from the mainland of Newfoundland. "Mutual forbearance" meant an understanding that boats from St. Pierre and Miquelon could go on the Canadian side, and Canadian boats could go on the St. Pierre and Miquelon side.

That is why, in those areas where the fishery is better on the Newfoundland side, the boats from St. Pierre and Miquelon go on the Newfoundland side; and where the fishery is better on the St. Pierre and Miquelon side, Newfoundland boats put their gear down on the St. Pierre and Miquelon side.

There was never any such thing as a 12-mile zone around St. Pierre and Miquelon. If there were, we would not be into the problem we are into today. One cannot argue that there is a 12-mile territorial sea around St. Pierre and Miquelon and be arguing that there is a disputed zone out 200 miles.

**An Hon. Member:** You tell him, George.

**Mr. Baker:** What has happened here is that the Government of Canada has again caved in. A vessel has been arrested, and this Government is not going to object. Instead, it is going to now try to justify the arrest of a Canadian vessel off the coast of Newfoundland.

**Ms. Copps:** Unbelievable.

**Mr. Baker:** There is no Cabinet order by which something can be done about it. This area is now referred to as French waters. No longer is it a disputed zone, but French waters. The Government of France, according to the Government of Canada, now has a 12-mile territorial sea around St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Why do they not put that on the licences of Canadian fishermen; why do they not outline on the licence what the restrictions are? Why not note on the licence that the territorial restriction applies, not only to the coastline of Newfoundland, but the coastline around St. Pierre and Miquelon? Were they to do so, half of the boats could not leave port.

What has been justified in the backrooms of the Department of External Affairs over the last 12 hours will not be accepted by the Canadian public. We are going to get to the briefing notes that are being used today in Question Period; we are not going to let this drop. The fishermen of Canada will know who is speaking up for them, and it is not the Government of Canada. It is the Government of Canada that should be speaking up; it is the Government of Canada that should be objecting to the Government of France.

**An Hon. Member:** Right on.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, I would—

**Mr. Speaker:** The period for questions and comments has expired. I will recognize the Hon. Minister if he is rising on debate. Is the Hon. Minister rising on debate?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**An Hon. Member:** Now we will get the truth.

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade):** Mr. Speaker, before getting into—

**An Hon. Member:** Where is the Minister of Fisheries?

**An Hon. Member:** He is cowering behind the curtain.

**Mr. Tobin:** He cannot hide behind John all of his life—although he does cast a large enough shadow that a lot of people could hide behind it.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, before I get into the present situation, I wish to refer to the treaty of March 27, 1972, a treaty negotiated by the Liberal Government of the day.

The Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker) referred to the boundary between St. Pierre and Miquelon and the Province of Newfoundland, or the territorial waters thereof, and expressed the view that a 12-mile limit could not be recognized because of the fact that, in certain places, there is not 12 miles of sea between the two coastlines.

That is dealt with in the Liberal-negotiated treaty of March 27, 1972, a treaty which has given Canada so much difficulty ever since. It is this treaty which is the cause of our present problems. Under that treaty, the Liberal Government gave France the right to fish in Canadian waters, subject to our determining quotas.

In Article 8 of that treaty, it is stated that the line defined in the annex to the present agreement determines, in the area between Newfoundland and the Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, the territorial waters of Canada and of the zones submitted to the fisheries jurisdiction of France, zones submitted to the fisheries jurisdiction of France by the then Liberal Government.

• (1040)

In the annex there is a document attached which shows that the equidistance principle applies between the Burin Peninsula and St. Pierre and Miquelon. I will show you, Mr. Speaker, the equidistance line in a diagram which is attached to this Liberal treaty. Here is Grand Miquelon and here is the equidistance line. Here is Brunette Island, the Burin Peninsula and Fortune Bay. Of course, the previous Government recognized France as having a 12-mile territorial boundary around St. Pierre and Miquelon. Where there is not 12 miles between St. Pierre and Miquelon and the mainland of Newfoundland, the equidistance principle applies, as was agreed to by the Liberal Government of the day.

First, with respect to yesterday's events, this action on the part of France in taking under French control the fishing