

Supply

was deliberately seeking to escalate the conflict by seeking to be arrested, but arresting a Canadian vessel with fishermen who are trying to make a living in order that they can put bread and butter on the table for their family back home in the communities in which they live. That was the final insult and the final answer to Canada's repeated gestures of goodwill.

Where are we today as a nation, Mr. Speaker? We can satisfy ourselves that we have followed the diplomatic route. We can satisfy our consciences that we have attempted at each and every turn to be a responsible, mature nation that seeks to avoid conflict and instead seeks discussion and a resolution of differences. We have done that. But this dispute has reached the point where we have now to satisfy ourselves and satisfy Canadians that this collection of provinces and peoples from Newfoundland to British Columbia, this Confederation that Newfoundland attached itself to 40 years ago in 1949, is a nation; that Canada does comprise a people that stands sovereign, strong, and independent and are prepared to act like a nation.

Today I asked the Secretary of State for External Affairs if it not time, not to declare a war, not to put gunboats off the coast of Newfoundland, not to arrest French vessels, not to fish under force of arms, but is it not time to say to France that the \$14 billion submarine contract that is being discussed is on hold, that the \$1.5 billion Air Canada purchase of planes from France is on hold. I asked him the question, and what did he tell me? He said that we cannot do that. There might be a trade war. Some workers in Québec or Ontario might be affected in that trade war. He told me that, a Member of Parliament by definition concerned about all of Canada, but also a Member of Parliament from Newfoundland.

I think that I understand Canada better than does the Secretary of State for External Affairs. The Canada that I know and love and have attached myself to would never say that Newfoundland or any part of Canada must be sold down the drain in the interests of a possible negative reaction somewhere else in the country. The people of Canada that I have met from British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Québec would never say to me as a Newfoundlander: "Yes, we know your rights have been trampled. We know your livelihood is being destroyed, but you must take it, my son, in the interests of ensuring that none of the rest of us in Canada ever have to pay a price for standing up for your rights as a Newfoundlander and as a Canadian".

That is not the Canada that I am a part of, Mr. Speaker. I say to the Secretary of State for External Affairs that I do not know a Canadian from coast to coast who would share his sentiments. The Canada in which I live has citizens in every province who are outraged today at the actions of France. The Canada in which I live has citizens in every province who say: "So be it if we must put a submarine contract on hold, or if we must put an Airbus contract on hold. If we must stand as a united nation to put an end to this insult to this nation and to Newfoundland in particular, then we are prepared to stand as one, take the risk, and pay the price".

• (1250)

That is the Canada that I believe in and the one that the Secretary of State for External Affairs lives in. The Canada that is selfish, the Canada that is brutal, the Canada that says that the poorest and weakest parts of this nation are expendable, are disposable, in the same way that a Kleenex is disposable, exists only in the mind of the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

If that is this Government's worry, if that is this Government's rationale for selling Newfoundland down the drain, for selling Atlantic Canada down the drain in this dispute with France, then it need not be concerned, because the people of Canada are far greater, far more proud, far more independent, and far more united than the paranoid mind of this Minister would indicate, a mind that decides that one part of this nation is expendable.

It is time to put an end to endless debates about treaties. It is time to put an end to endless debates about history. It is time to put an end to endless discussions and the turning of the other cheek. It is time for Canada to stand up and be counted.

I do not condemn this Government for its past attempts at seeking to strike a responsive and conciliatory chord with France. But, when faced with the inevitable, when faced with the reality that France only understands, at this stage, a tough measure, faced with the reality that France will only understand, at this stage, that one part of this country shall not be sacrificed, this Government does not act, and for that I condemn it.

The way for this Government to act is to hit France where it will understand it best, and that is in its pocketbook. France ought to be told that \$14 billion worth of submissions cannot be sold to Canada in the face of its action off the coast of Newfoundland—

Mr. Dick: You have just increased it by \$2 billion in the last hour. You said \$12 billion during Question Period.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, is it not a tragedy that, at a time such as this, this narrow and shallow man—a man who, were he but a pair of shoes, could walk across a lake and never get his ankles wet, he is so shallow—would completely misunderstand the importance of the moment and the issue at hand, to the point where he, this junior Associate Minister of Defence (Mr. Dick), wants to debate whether these submarines are going to cost \$12 billion or \$14 billion.

Mr. Dick: You just do not care about \$2 billion?

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, the truth is that the submarines will probably cost \$20 billion. But, the dollar figure is not what counts. Principle counts; backbone counts; courage counts; integrity counts. The Minister cannot count, Mr. Speaker—not when it comes to any of the values that make up the nature and character that define a country; nor can he count when it