

Oral Questions

opposed to taking positions that are no longer acceptable to anybody.

REQUEST FOR RECALL OF CANADIAN AMBASSADOR FROM
FRANCE

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. I wish to correct the record, because the Prime Minister has misled the House.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

● (1440)

Mr. Rompkey: I want to quote from a document issued in 1980 by the Minister of Fisheries which says that the French vessels will be permitted to take, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, fish until May 15, 1986, and that beyond that date vessels from metropolitan France will no longer be permitted to fish in the Gulf. In view of the legitimate requests of the Premier of Newfoundland this morning as an alternative to this sell-out of the northern cod, will the Prime Minister accede to these four reasonable alternative demands for settling this important issue: first, recall the Canadian Ambassador; second, withdraw port privileges from the French; third, reconsider trade relations; and fourth, reconsider the Prime Minister's role and the Government's role in the Francophone summit? Will he consider those as alternatives?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member talks about misleading the House. His colleague, the Hon. Member for Egmont, misled the House a moment ago by suggesting that the treaty signed by the Liberal Government in 1972 had expired. It has not—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Siddon: Only the French fishing rights in the Gulf have expired.

Mr. Speaker: I know all Hon. Members would want to give the Minister a chance to answer. However, I want to comment on the word "misled". There was no suggestion made on either side that anyone intentionally misled. There is a different view of circumstances and perhaps facts, although that is not as clear as it might be. The Hon. Minister will complete his answer.

Mr. Siddon: To conclude my answer, the rights of the French metropolitan fleet to fish in the Gulf of St. Lawrence expired in 1986. Their rights to continue to fish their quota under the EEC long-term agreement, as accorded by a previous Liberal Government, continue into 1987.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER CANCEL AGREEMENT

Hon. William Rompkey (Grand Falls—White Bay—Labrador): Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister is the Prime Minister of all Canada, including Newfoundland whose people are equal Canadians. Will he give them justice and will he give

them equal treatment? Will he now reject the pernicious deal his Government is proposing with the French and accede to the legitimate requests of the Premier of Newfoundland? Will he do that?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I see the Leader of the Opposition is applauding. He should be ashamed of himself, having been part of a Government which gave rise to this cornerstone of difficulty for the fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador.

I invite my hon. friend to abandon the rhetoric and the slogans, on behalf of the fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador. He knows full well that it is a complex and difficult issue. He knows full well that we are in the process of resolving the matter properly. I have had discussions with the Premier. The Minister of Transport will be down there as well. I would be interested to know if what he said in his first question is official policy of the Opposition. I would be interested to know if that is what the Liberal Party stands for on this particular issue. We know the NDP's gunboat diplomacy. Now the Liberals are apparently talking about a total rupture of a relationship. What we are doing—

Mr. Rompkey: What did you say to the Premier?

Mr. Mulroney: What will I say to the Premier? Exactly what I have said. The Government and its intentions in this file ought to be judged by our actions in others, including the resolution of an historic and difficult injustice for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador where, after 15 years of heart-ache and agony, the Progressive Conservative Government resolved the tremendously complex issue of offshore resources in favour of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador. We will work with this same determination to help the fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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[Translation]

THE ADMINISTRATION

INQUIRY WHETHER THERE EXIST TWO CLASSES OF
CONSERVATIVES

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister, who informed this House that he took immediate action to obtain the resignation of the Minister of State (Transport), in view of his involvement in the Oerlikon affair. We now know that Mr. Jean Bazin was involved in Oerlikon's business for almost one year, which made him very much aware of Oerlikon's dealings in Saint-Jean. Could the Prime Minister explain why he asked for the Minister's resignation, while Mr. Bazin has now been sworn in as a member of the Senate? Does this mean there are two