

*Supply*

territorial limit that was recognized by his Government, a past Liberal Government. Does he realize that he was a member of this House and a part of that Government from 1972 onward, and that for every day that he was a member of that Government, he was recognizing this 12-mile limit?

He cannot now very well get up in this House and pretend that the 12-mile territorial limit around St. Pierre and Miquelon does not exist. He was among those who permitted it to exist. Past Governments of which he was a member permitted that territorial limit to exist.

**Ms. Copps:** That is ridiculous. An apologist for the French Government. Ridiculous.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe, on a point of order.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order, and it is a very serious point of order. Members of this House have the right to expect that, when they engage in debate and ask questions, they will get answers from a representative of the Government of Canada, and not a representative of the Government of France.

**Ms. Copps:** Right on.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member has made a point, but not a point of order. I would ask the Hon. Minister to continue.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, the second point—

**An Hon. Member:** Do you support Mitterrand or Chirac?

**An Hon. Member:** He probably supports Le Pen.

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, the rules provide for a 10-minute period in which one can ask questions or make comments on any speech made by Members of this House, thereby enabling any remarks to be put to the test. The Liberals do not like this rule used on them, given the great abyss of ignorance that exists in that Party. They are very skilled in the use of the stiletto and the dirk in the back of their Leader, but they are not skilled in answering questions.

**Ms. Copps:** Oh, come on. Tell us about Brian Peckford.

**An Hon. Member:** What was it you said about Joe Clark, after the leadership campaign?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, the second part of my question has to do with whether or not the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker), who has just concluded a dramatic presentation—and I congratulate him on that. He is the Marlon Brando of the Liberal ranks. Method acting is his forte—realizes that, in many bays about Newfoundland, there are gear conflicts, conflicts as between the inshore fishermen, a group he claims to represent, a group that he claims to love so much. It is a conflict between those who use fixed gear and

those who use mobile gear. In other words, some can move around, setting their gear where they wish, whereas others among them have fixed gear. The gear is set once, and it is fixed.

**Mr. Tobin:** You should be ashamed of yourself.

**Mr. Crosbie:** The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has drawn certain lines in the bays of Newfoundland to protect the fixed gear inshore fisherman, who does not want his gear destroyed by the mobile fishing sector.

Does the Hon. Member know that there is a line drawn in Fortune Bay to protect the inshore fixed gear fleet, with the mobile gear fleet having to fish outside of that line? Does the Hon. Member realize that that situation exists, and does he realize that, when he attacks that, he is attacking the very fixed gear inshore fishermen he pretends to love and vows to protect?

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate (Mr. Baker).

**Mr. Tobin:** Now we shall hear from a spokesman for the people of Canada.

**An Hon. Member:** The people of Canada shall now speak. Vive le Canada.

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, I was interested to hear a member of the Cabinet say that I was a part of the Government of 1972, especially given the fact that I was first elected to the House of Commons in 1974.

**An Hon. Member:** It seems like 1972.

**An Hon. Member:** Never let the facts stand in the way of a good allegation, Mr. Crosbie.

**Mr. Baker:** Perhaps it is an indication that the Minister wants to backdate my pension to 1972.

The Minister, in asking the question he does, is ignorant of a couple of facts. If, as he claims, there has been a 12-mile zone around St. Pierre and Miquelon, Canadian fishermen could not fish within that 12-mile zone. As well, it would mean that there would be a territorial sea going out 12 miles around St. Pierre and Miquelon, which would mean that, when one goes on to the beach at the foot of the Burin Peninsula, one is on French soil. It also means that the French would own at least one mile of the forested area on the very tip of the Burin Peninsula. That would be French territory.

**Ms. Copps:** Pull up your socks, John.

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that the distance between Newfoundland and St. Pierre and Miquelon, varies, in locations, from 11 miles to 14 miles. That was the only area that was ever in dispute, or a semblance dispute, off the Newfoundland coast. There was no 12-mile zone, because physically it was impossible.