

## REASON FOR SIGNING AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister. When the Minister of Transport, Newfoundland's voice in Cabinet, was asked about the reasons this agreement was rushed through and signed, he said: "I want to find the answer to that myself; I intend to find the answer". Could the Deputy Prime Minister tell the House of Commons and the people of Canada why this agreement with France, which has so many unfortunate complications attached to it, was rushed through without proper consultation?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I might ask why it is that opposition questioners always focus on the negative and do not recognize—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Siddon:**—a chance, once and for all, to solve a problem of historical dimension by taking a courageous path supported and totally encouraged and promoted in Newfoundland by the Minister of Transport and his colleagues who will ensure that this will be a better deal for the fishermen of Newfoundland and Labrador than anything achieved in the past.

**Mr. Manly:** Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Fisheries should know that there is a large negative sign in front of the entire Government and that it is bracketed by negatives.

## REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT CANCEL AGREEMENT

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, the Government has apologized to the Government of Newfoundland for the process involved in this agreement. Does the Deputy Prime Minister not recognize that a bad process cannot lead to a good conclusion? Recognizing all the wrong processes and conclusions in the agreement, will the Government now agree to cancel it and start over again?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, this "ostrich head in the sand" approach of the Opposition, particularly of my colleague who speaks for the NDP, is at the heart of our problems as a nation. It is high time they stood in the House and offered some positive suggestions, because it is only through making difficult choices, even with their imperfections, that we achieve progress on behalf of the people we represent.

## REFUELING OF FRENCH FLEET

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The Minister should know that a modern day "Boston Tea Party" is happening on the tiny islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Every last one of the 560,000 people of Newfoundland stand in solidarity with the people of St. Pierre. We are standing up to France and standing up for their inshore fishermen. Will the Minister assure the House of Commons that large factory freezer trawlers which are turned away from

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St. Pierre will not be allowed to refuel in Canadian ports? Will he give us that assurance?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, as I have already indicated in the House, I will be meeting with my colleagues, the Ministers of Fisheries for the Atlantic provinces, early next week. There is a lot of talk about the failure of the process. I am talking about following the process in an appropriate manner to achieve the kind of result for which the Hon. Member is hoping. However, in the process we are not about to do anything stupid just because the Hon. Member suggests it.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Tobin:** The expert on stupidity speaks. I am tempted to say: "*Vive St. Pierre et Miquelon libre*", but I will not say it because Charles de Gaulle would not like it.

## CANADIAN POSITION

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, is the Minister telling the House of Commons that, when the people on the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon stand up to France and are counted and turn away factory freezer trawlers from those tiny islands, those vessels will be allowed to come into Canadian ports, refuel, and continue to overfish Canadian fish? Is that what he is telling us?

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Absolutely not, Mr. Speaker. When the people of St. Pierre and Miquelon stand up to be counted, we will see and we will probably be very, very appreciative of their action.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Siddon:** When the time comes we will see just how firm the Government of Canada can be on behalf—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Siddon:** I think, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Dingwall:** We want Mr. T.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Sit down.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**An Hon. Member:** Stand up, John.

**Mr. Speaker:** I thank the Hon. Member for Nickel Belt for his help.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** I am sorry, I was not attempting to take your place, Mr. Speaker.