

### Supply

of fish. That was established by the then Minister of Fisheries and Oceans who, for a large portion of that time, was the Hon. Member's predecessor as the Hon. Member for Westmorland—Kent. As I recollect it, he granted quotas which increased in each of those five-year periods to a level of 21,000 tonnes in the last period between 1981 and 1986. The result was that when I became Minister we had to take drastic measures to reduce quotas in the Gulf of St. Lawrence because it had been massively overfished. That 21,000 tonnes had a lot to do with devastating the livelihood of fishermen from the Hon. Member's riding in northwestern New Brunswick.

• (1330)

**Mr. Manly:** Mr. Speaker, first I have a brief comment. The Minister referred to the settlement regarding the Channel Islands. I think the Minister would acknowledge that that settlement very clearly indicated that it was not to be a precedent for any other similar situation. The Channel Islands settlement does not apply across the board to St. Pierre and Miquelon. France was cagey enough to ensure that it received that proviso.

The Minister said that great progress has been made since January, 1987, in bringing the French to their senses on the whole question of fishing and coming to terms with Canada. Will he be specific? What have we got? We have seen the French involved in provocations, sending the vessel *Croix de Lorraine* into Canadian waters.

The Minister himself admitted a few minutes ago that this is the first time the arrangement between Canada and France, Newfoundland and St. Pierre and Miquelon, for small vessels has been broken. We have seen continued overfishing.

How have the French come to their senses? What have we got? The Minister referred specifically to international arbitration. When will that international arbitration take place? There is an agreement that there will be a process by which France will get quotas while we are waiting for international arbitration. When will international arbitration begin and in what form?

**Mr. Siddon:** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member's question is very appropriate. He asks what we have from all these events, even the anguish in the past year, since January 24, 1987. We have the present situation in which, for the first year in our history, there are no French fishing vessels fishing anywhere in the undisputed waters of Canada, from Davis Inlet, down through the areas we call 2GH off the coast of Labrador. There are no quotas of northern cod which they have traditionally fished under their share of the European long-term agreement, which we also terminated last year.

There are no French vessels fishing in the area 3NO on the Grand Banks. There are no French vessels fishing in the Gulf in the area 4RS and 4RT or on the Scotian shelf.

The only place where the French are still fishing within waters that we claim to be ours is in the disputed zone, largely

south of the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and the smaller area which the inshore vessels of St. Pierre have shared with our inshore fishermen, which is the area that was the subject of yesterday's incident.

We have removed the French presence. There are no large quantities of fish going back to France as there were every year for as long as France has been present in the waters of Canada. That is a great step forward.

We have also noted this year that the number of large trawlers which have traditionally come across the Atlantic to fish in our waters has dropped by almost one-half. We are told that there are signs in France that the owners of these vessels will increasingly find it difficult to contemplate coming to Canada and fishing that resource. I think that bodes well in terms of a solution to the overfishing in the disputed zone by those large trawlers from France. We see a continual decline of their enthusiasm to come across the Atlantic and fish in these waters.

I suggest that we are making very steady progress. A measure of that progress is the rather extreme, alarmist kind of reaction in which France is engaged, first with the silly voyage of the *Croix de Lorraine* some three weeks ago to draw international attention to this great injustice. However, that backfired and was seen in Canada and abroad as an unacceptable infringement on our sovereignty.

Then it provoked this silly confrontation yesterday in an area where our inshore fishermen have lived according to certain arrangements for a long time. It is the inshore fishermen of St. Pierre and Miquelon and southern Newfoundland who are being victimized by this latest provocation.

The answer to the question is that we do not know the date on which France will agree to refer the boundary issue to international arbitration. I suggest, however, even with all the debate and controversy that surrounds this issue, that we have made major progress toward persuading France and creating the pressure of international recognition that France's demands in this matter are unreasonable and that just as in the case of the Channel Islands decision which went in favour of France, a just solution to Canada's benefit must be found soon.

**Mr. Ernie Epp (Thunder Bay—Nipigon):** Mr. Speaker, today we are debating a motion of condemnation of the Government. The motion declares that this House deplore the unlawful arrest of a Canadian fishing vessel by the Government of France in area 3PS off the coast of Newfoundland; and that this House condemn the Government for its failure to protect the Canadian fishing industry and its continuing inability to resolve the Canada-France fishing dispute.

That motion is of enormous concern to Newfoundlanders and Canadians. I emphasize that it is a concern to the people of Newfoundland because I know how much our new colleague, the Member for St. John's East (Mr. Harris), would like to be in the House speaking to this motion. As happens so often with Members of Parliament, on Fridays they are back