

either in the longer term or in the period of 1987, unless those quotas can be justified and supported by the fishermen of Atlantic Canada.

OVERFISHING BY FRENCH VESSELS

Mr. George Henderson (Egmont): Mr. Speaker, why did the Minister allow this agreement, if that is what it is, to be signed before receiving any commitment whatsoever from the French Government to stop its blatant overfishing in zone 3PS? Why did he even enter into any kind of agreement until the French stopped that?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, again this illustrates the regrettable misinformation that opposition Members and the Hon. Member in particular are using in order to discredit a very important initiative which will bring significant benefits, if successful, to the fishermen of Atlantic Canada. If these two parallel agreements cannot be negotiated satisfactorily there will be no additional fish granted to anyone other than Atlantic Canada fishermen.

ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS—FISHERMEN'S POSITION

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. He said that there would be no additional allocation of fish to France unless it was acceptable to the people of Newfoundland. Surely it is abundantly clear to the Minister and the Government that this is and will not be acceptable to the people of Newfoundland. Why wait? Why not recognize that fact and tell France that it is an unacceptable deal to the people of Canada, and begin again?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, first let me clear up a misunderstanding. The quotas of cod granted to France in 1987 in Canadian waters are less than half of what they were last year, 11,000 tonnes as compared to over 22,000 tonnes last year. In contrast to the modest reductions of quotas Canadian fishermen are experiencing, the French quotas have been more than cut in half.

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The Hon. Member suggests we should capitulate on our attempt to secure a permanent and lasting solution to the boundary question, thereby consigning Atlantic Canadians in perpetuity to seeing their stocks in the area south of St. Pierre and Miquelon overfished indiscriminately by the French. That I would find absolutely unacceptable.

Mr. Manly: That is not what this Party wants. It is not what the Government or the people of Newfoundland want. They want a Government which will stand up for their rights and for the fisheries resource in Canada.

Oral Questions

DROPPING OF CONSULTATIONS

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): The Minister of Transport last night confirmed that the Government of Newfoundland, the industry representatives, and the union had been involved in consultation up until last week and then they were suddenly cut out. Why did the Minister suddenly drop these people from consultation?

Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, what the Hon. Member of the Opposition would advocate, as did his Leader last night, is we either walk away from the table and give up, thereby allowing tens of thousands of tonnes of overfishing to continue at the hands of France, or we rattle the sabres and perhaps get into a military confrontation with another friendly neighbour, an historical founding nation of Canada, France. I think it is irresponsible that the New Democratic Party would suggest forceful confrontation in this serious international matter.

APOLOGY TO PEOPLE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands): Mr. Speaker, my final supplementary question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister.

An Hon. Member: Warmonger!

Mr. Manly: When is the Government going to take action on the request—demand, really—from the Minister of Transport that the Government apologize to the Government and people of Newfoundland for the shameful way in which it has treated them in negotiating this deal with France?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate to the Hon. Member that I did speak to Mr. Peckford yesterday. I expressed regret for the inadvertent breakdown in communications and in the process—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Mazankowski:—which was established. I expressed my apologies to him, and on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Deputy Prime Minister and it concerns the same subject matter. The Deputy Prime Minister will know that Newfoundlanders are outraged at the way the Government of Canada has failed to represent their interests in its dealing with France on this particular agreement. Would the Deputy Prime Minister inform the House, and the people of Atlantic Canada, and confirm that this decision, this agreement, was not approved by Cabinet but was done by bureaucrats and senior individuals in the Prime Minister's Office? Will the Deputy Prime Minister confirm that?