

*Oral Questions*

**An Hon. Member:** The Head of State of Canada is Her Majesty the Queen.

**Mr. Manly:** My question for the Secretary of State for External Affairs is as follows. In view of these facts, will the Government now cancel any attempt to purchase the nuclear submarine fleet from France?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, what we have here is a proposal by the two opposition Parties in this House to take a very serious fisheries dispute and escalate it into a trade war between Canada and France. That is their proposal.

The Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands will understand, I would hope, that trade wars claim victims on both sides. Among the Canadian victims of a trade war with France, were Canada to go out of its way deliberately and unnecessarily to start one, would be the employees of Canadair, a company which is trying to sell water bombers to France—

**An Hon. Member:** We are not talking about a trade war; we are talking about breaking off negotiations to purchase submarines.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** Such a trade war would impact on a wide range of Canadians.

**Mr. Tobin:** So, it is a trade war. It is confirmed. Newfoundland is expendable.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** That speaks to the Liberal and NDP proposal that we start a trade war.

**Mr. Tobin:** Newfoundland can be sold down the drain.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** It is the judgment of this Government that, instead of seeking out opportunities to start a trade war, we should be doing all that we can to settle this fisheries dispute, to the benefit of Canadians.

**An Hon. Member:** Newfoundland is expendable. We have heard it now.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order. The Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands, on a supplementary.

**Mr. Manly:** Mr. Speaker, France has played hardball on this issue. It is not regarded by France simply as a fisheries dispute or a boundary dispute. Rather, it has been allowed, by France, to spill into other areas.

Had this Government taken a stronger position a year and a half ago, this issue would be solved by now.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## CANADA-FRANCE RELATIONS

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands):** My supplementary question for the Secretary of State for External

Affairs is as follows. Is he now willing to look at this issue in the light of the total Canada-France relationship, or does he simply want to regard it as a little fisheries dispute, with Canada making one retreat after another, letting France have whatever it wants?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, what odd behaviour for the Hon. Member. Here we have a man of peaceful inclination standing in the House of Commons urging us to start a trade war.

**An Hon. Member:** Hypocrite.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** That is the first oddity.

**An Hon. Member:** Those are your words.

**Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):** The Hon. Member purports to speak for the people of Newfoundland. Perhaps I might be permitted to read into the record, with all appropriate modesty, a letter signed by the Premier of Newfoundland on May 6, today. I quote: "The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador commends the Government of Canada for the swift action taken by"—and I ask for your indulgence, Mr. Speaker—"taken by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in suspending the mediation talks scheduled for later this week between the two countries."

We have acted consistently, vigorously, and effectively to protect the interests of Canadians in this dispute.

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## EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

## SCHEDULED VISIT BY POLISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO CANADA

**Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It is a serious matter.

The citizens and workers of Poland continue to struggle against the shackles of communism, of a communist regime. The present strikes are the result of popular discontent over unfair price increases.

There are some 500,000 Canadians of Polish origin in Canada, many of whom agonize over family members in Poland whose lives may be in danger as a result of the current unrest in that country.

Why has the Canadian Government agreed to meet with a Polish parliamentary delegation, when press reports indicate that the Polish Government is forcibly suppressing labour strikes in that country?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the developments in Poland are of a