

**Some Hon. Members:** Lou! Lou!

NEWFOUNDLAND REPRESENTATION IN CABINET

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, why has the Government of Canada arrested a vessel from St. Pierre and Miquelon but refuses to stand up to factory freezer trawlers from France? This morning in St. John's, Newfoundland, the Acting Minister of Fisheries released a letter that was written to him by the Prime Minister in which he said: "I want to assure the people of Newfoundland, through you, that they can count on you—I will rely heavily on your advise . . . you are to be fully involved—your counsel will be sought". The people of Newfoundland and Labrador are wondering why, two years after the election, such a letter was necessary? Has Newfoundland had no voice around the cabinet table for the last 24 months? Have you been receiving a cabinet Minister's salary? What have you done to earn it with this Canada-France agreement?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Acting Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman passes on to other topics because he knows that we put some teeth into the enforcement of fishing limits in this country for the first time. We have observers on every foreign vessel that is permitted to fish in our territory. That was not done under the Liberals. We have acquired a twin-engine helicopter for offshore surveillance. That was not done under the Liberals. We armed our patrol boats and we are going to have armed boarding parties. That was not done under the Liberals. The very people who are now so bellicose in opposition were meek and mild little toadies when they were over here in the Government.

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

**Mr. Crosbie:** While I have been around the cabinet table I have been helping to secure the Atlantic Accord for Newfoundland, the Newfoundland offshore development fund—

**Some Hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Crosbie:** —I have been helping to secure assistance for the Hope Brook gold mine. I have been helping to get ad hoc assistance for inshore fishermen. I have been arranging the purchase of vessels for the maritime fisheries. I have a whole long list, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Blaikie:** Try again, Tobin.

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

**Mr. Tobin:** I will tell you what was not done under the Liberals. We did not sell out the people of Newfoundland and Labrador because we lacked on backbone. We did not try to make up in volume and bluster what we lacked in courage. That was not done under the Liberals.

*Oral Questions*

CANADA-FRANCE 1972 TREATY—NEWFOUNDLAND PREMIER'S POSITION

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe):** Mr. Speaker, how can the Government continue to insist that the dilemma in which it finds itself, because of a lack of backbone, was caused by the 1972 treaty, when his colleague and friend whom he saw last Friday, the Premier of Newfoundland, said this morning in response to the Prime Minister's letter:

I am—concerned about the statement in the Prime Minister's letter that appears to imply a link between the 1972 Fishing Treaty and a Canadian obligation to provide cod to France under that treaty. Article 2 of the 1972 Treaty does not obligate Canada to provide cod in any particular fishing zone—

Why have you caved in?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Acting Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, I have not received any communication from the Premier of Newfoundland. Perhaps he is in intimate contact with the Member who just asked the question and has apparently supplied him with some letter or opinion he has given in reply to the Prime Minister's letter. I say that a finer letter was never received by any member of the Cabinet. The Prime Minister has said that the outcome of this whole negotiation must be in the best interests of the people of Newfoundland and Atlantic Canada "or there will be no deal". Eat your heart out!

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

ALLOCATION OF COD QUOTA TO FRANCE

**Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, we know from the extraordinary meeting of the Premiers the other day who was not involved in the decision to allocate codfish to the east and northeast coast of Newfoundland. Canadians want to know who was involved in the allocation of a cod quota for the French to the north of Newfoundland off the Labrador coast, for the first time in our history. My question is directed to the Acting Minister of Fisheries. Was he involved in this giveaway and did he notify the Newfoundland Government?

[*Translation*]

And was the Member for Manicouagan in favour of the quota for his region, which was also handed out to the French?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Acting Minister of Fisheries and Oceans):** Mr. Speaker, that is foolishness!

• (1425)

[*English*]

As to who was involved in those discussions during the period from January 13 to January 16, representatives of the Government of Newfoundland were involved in all the negotiations with France in this matter. It was agreed—and they agreed as well—that Canada should offer at that time 3,000 tonnes of fish to St. Pierre and Miquelon vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, which we have to do under the infamous 1972 treaty entered into by the past Liberal administration,