

Supply

present to answer questions. There is no one present to answer questions with respect to these negotiations, no one who answered questions today in Question Period, especially not the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) because he is obviously out on a limb, out of touch, and not allowed to speak on this important question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): May I then get unanimous consent to allow the Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) to have the ten-minute question or comment—

Mr. Tobin: No, Mr. Speaker, you do not hear unanimous consent.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order.

Mr. Lewis: Manufactured indignation.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There not being unanimous consent, the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands has the floor.

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, the Parliamentary Secretary pointed out that the Minister is meeting with other Ministers to try and find some solution to the problem. I hope he has more to say to the other Ministers than he had to say to the House. What we had was very long on wind and very short on substance.

Mr. Lewis: Where is Jack Harris when you need him?

Mr. Manly: The Hon. Minister for huffery and puffery, if he had been present yesterday off the coast of Newfoundland, could have huffed and puffed and blown the French fleet right out of the water. However, he had very little to say to the House today about a very serious situation facing the people of Newfoundland and Canada.

Mr. Siddon: You were not listening, Jim.

Mr. Manly: We have had insult, provocation and harassment one after the other by the Government of France. Yet our Government has meekly accepted all of it.

I welcome the opportunity to make a few remarks on the motion put forward by the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate. Ordinarily the person responding for our Party would be the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. Harris). He of course is in Newfoundland today where I am sure he is going to have a great deal to say about this very unfortunate incident.

Perhaps this incident could be ignored or downplayed if it were an isolated incident. Perhaps it could even be attributed to some mistake by some over-zealous French officials. However, we cannot see it in that light because it forms part of a pattern of provocation and harassment by the French Government. It is also part of the pattern of the Canadian Government meekly accepting that and backing down in one circumstance after another.

Over the past two years we have seen the refusal of the French metropolitan fleet to accept fishing quotas imposed by the Government of Canada in the interests of conserving cod stocks. These quotas were imposed not simply in our interests but in the world's interests in order to preserve those stocks. The French have blatantly disregarded those quotas and tragically overfished.

Last fall there was a state visit by the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Mazankowski) and the Governor General of Canada to France and a deliberate snub of our Governor General by French officials. A few weeks ago a French fishing vessel went into Canadian waters and deliberately provoked Canada in order to be arrested. The presence of elected French officials only underlined the provocation. When that French vessel was arrested by Canada, France escalated the situation by harassing Canadian tourists going to France. It seems as though they are not interested in the fact that France has a \$161 million surplus in tourism with Canada. Yet there was still that kind of provocation.

● (1220)

Yesterday's incident, with the arrest of the small vessel *Maritimer* by a French naval tug, was only the latest in a long series of these provocations. The question of whether or not it was in French territorial waters has occupied us to some extent this morning, and there has been debate back and forth. I do not want to get involved in the technicalities of that.

What we know and recognize on all sides of the House is that that arrest violates a long-standing arrangement between Newfoundland and St. Pierre and Miquelon, between Canada and France, which allowed both Newfoundland vessels and vessels from St. Pierre and Miquelon to fish in that general area without being harassed or arrested.

What we see from this whole series of events is that it is very obvious that France plays hardball in international affairs. It is certainly playing hardball with Canada. It has some mistaken, outdated ideas of grandeur that it has inherited from Louis XIV and Charles de Gaulle. The colonial mentality that looks upon places like St. Pierre and Miquelon as colonies that can be manipulated in the interests of French policy, quite apart from the economic interests of the few thousand people who live on those two small islands, has to be rejected and condemned.

While France plays hardball and acts with impunity in its relations with Canada, Canada has accepted all of this. Under the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and his Government, Canada is something of an international patsy. It seems that the overwhelming objective of Canada in international affairs is the photo opportunity.

The House will recall the Prime Minister's visit to Africa and how some of his aides scouted Victoria Falls to find the most advantageous angle at which to photograph the Prime Minister with Victoria Falls for a background. We remember the farce of the Shamrock Summit which, incidentally, points