

S.O. 29

be an intention to sign an agreement. There must be consideration and there must be the signatures of the parties. Do we have that here? One member of the Tory Party says yes and another says no. How convenient for the Tories—excuse me, Mr. Speaker, Members of Parliament of the Conservative Party of Canada—to try to be on both sides of the issue. It is typical of an incompetent, insensitive Government that does not deserve the trust of Canadians to run the administration of this country.

I would like to talk about something else in regard to this particular issue and it has to do with the Prime Minister, or Photo-Brian as he is known in my constituency. Why was this agreement made in secret? Did it have anything to do with the desire of the Prime Minister to have wonderful, glorious, picturesque photo opportunities at the upcoming first Franco-phone summit in Quebec City? Is that the rationale behind this agreement? If it is the rationale, I challenge the Hon. Member for St. John's West to have the intestinal fortitude to tell the Prime Minister that he is wrong and is not representing the best interests of Newfoundland. The Hon. Member for St. John's West has the habit of saying one thing in St. John's and another in Ottawa. That is typical.

● (2350)

Mr. Crosbie: You do not tell the truth in either place.

Mr. Dingwall: It is typical gross negligence and gross incompetence by Members opposite.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans issued a press release. You want to talk about someone not coming clean! Not with Members of Parliament on this side.

Mr. Holtmann: We know you are clean.

Mr. Crosbie: Your head is shiny.

Mr. Dingwall: Not with Members of Parliament on this side but with his own caucus. Do you hear them wailing and crying over there? They are 28 per cent or 29 per cent in the polls and they are gone. Gone. This will help your exit from political life.

Mr. Crosbie: You are gone with the wind, Dingwall.

Mr. Dingwall: The French catch, as indicated in the press release for 1984, was 6,607 tonnes. However, what does the confidential document say to which the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and obviously because he is a privy counsellor, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie) were exposed? It says 11,221 tonnes. If that is not duplicity, if that is not double-talk, if that is not misleading members of the Progressive Conservative caucus, I do not know what is. What was the figure used by the Minister in his press release for 1985? It was 6,010 tonnes as of May, 1985. In the secret document that Premier Peckford and Premier Buchanan have yet to see what does it say? This is the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans—

Mr. Henderson: Telling his own people.

Mr. Dingwall: —18,508 tonnes. It is very obvious that we are getting only one side of the story from the Minister. He is refusing to share with his caucus colleagues information germane to this discussion. That is gross incompetence and gross negligence. As I said earlier, it deserves as a bare minimum his resignation from Cabinet as Minister of Fisheries and Oceans forthwith.

Mr. Holtmann: Sit down.

Mr. Dingwall: I will conclude by saying that the Premier of Newfoundland and the Premier of Nova Scotia agree that the Government's handling of this issue—

Mr. Forrestall: That is right, the Conservatives agreed with Gerald Regan who agreed you were an incompetent MLA.

Mr. Dingwall: They both have concluded that this agreement is akin to gross incompetence.

It is one thing for Members opposite to say that, but quite another when provincial Premiers say it. I say to the people of Newfoundland that they have been let down by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. The Hon. Member for St. John's West has abdicated his responsibilities as their representative in the federal Cabinet, and I call upon Conservative Members of Parliament from the Province of Newfoundland to demand forthwith the resignation of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. If not, let them sit as independents. Put your money where your mouth is.

Mr. Les Benjamin (Regina West): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Holtmann: From the Prairies.

Mr. Crosbie: Glad to know you are still breathing, Les.

Mr. Benjamin: I will be breathing long after my good friend, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Crosbie).

In taking part in this debate, the first thing I want to do—

Mr. Crosbie: Is sit down.

Mr. Benjamin: —is extend my congratulations and respect to the Hon. Member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception (Mr. Johnson). I thought he spoke from his heart as well as his head.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Benjamin: He made it plain that he was saying to his own Party and Government: This far and no further.

Mr. Forrestall: That is why we are a great Party.

Mr. Benjamin: Mike, would you get on the list and get up and make a speech?

Mr. Forrestall: We are a great Party.

Mr. Benjamin: You have made four speeches sitting on your ass. Now shut up.