

Supply

of French overfishing in the disputed zone of 3PS. We have no authority to stop France's overfishing there, but the French have for the last several years overfished in the area to the extent of something like 20,000 tonnes during one year.

As a next step, we refused to allow the Burgeo Bank, which is a major fishing ground off the south coast of Newfoundland, to be used by France. During the summer of 1987 we closed the remainder of area 3PS outside the disputed zone, which is known as the western gullies, to French vessels. We no longer permit them to fish there. Those areas closed off include other valuable fishing grounds on which the French have depended heavily in the past. This was to show our displeasure at France's overfishing in the disputed area which we cannot control.

On October 9, France broke off negotiations with us on both the *compromis*. We want to get the question of the territorial boundaries and economic zone around St. Pierre and Miquelon and between St. Pierre and Miquelon and Canada to an international tribunal. France refuses unless we agree to give the French certain fish quotas in Canadian waters over the next three or four years. That is what the dispute is about. France broke off negotiations with us in both those areas. We then told France at the end of the year that there would be no quotas granted to the French in Canadian waters—none—in 1988 in the absence of an agreement on sending this boundary dispute to adjudication and in the absence of an agreement on the question of quotas. Our position has remained firm ever since. How juvenile and silly is this resolution to try to condemn the Government for its failure to protect the Canadian fishing industry in light of the steps that we have taken.

We are operating under the provisions of a 1972 treaty entered into by the very people who filed this motion here this morning and who put Canada and Canadian fishermen into this regrettable situation off the east coast of Canada. These are the people who gave the French the right to fish in Canadian waters. The Government of Canada has to set quotas each year for that purpose. This is where the French get their rights from, this Liberal treaty of 1972.

● (1050)

Of course, there may well be a question of whether or not French actions are making this treaty unworkable. That is another question that we will be coming to in due course. However, the very people who caused this problem are the people who are now here with their crocodile tears, going on about the incident that happened yesterday.

The author of the motion, having had his 20 minutes of histrionics in the Chamber, has disappeared somewhere. I suppose he is out before the television cameras or gone somewhere. I did not get the chance to ask this question of him. Perhaps he could tell us now. He claimed yesterday that there was a fisheries patrol vessel in the area when this happened. This is in *Hansard* of yesterday on page 15188. In fact, there was no fisheries patrol vessel in the area.

Then the Hon. Member claimed that there was an RCMP helicopter that flew over and a fixed-wing aircraft belonging to the Coast Guard. We would like to have some evidence of that, particularly due to the fact that there was heavy fog in the St. John's area yesterday.

What we heard from the Member from Gander is what we usually hear from him, a lot of braggadocio, a bilious bunkum, a blithering blatherskiting, that is all we have heard from the Hon. Member. We heard not a scintilla, not a suggestion as to how this dispute could be settled. Not one reasonable suggestion was made as to how we could get France to agree to a reasonable settlement that will protect Canadian fishermen.

We heard not a word of apology for the fact that from 1974 to 1984, he was in the House completely silent, not a word came from his mouth with reference to what was happening in the fishing areas off the east coast of Canada. We did not hear a word when in 1981, his Government gave the European Economic Community 9,500 tonnes of northern cod to take every year. That agreement expired at the end of last year and we have not renewed it.

We hear not a word of apology for the damage that was done to the Canadian fishery by that agreement with the European Economic Community providing 9,500 tonnes of cod a year, not even a crocodile tear from the hon. gnome from Gander who has now disappeared, doing his Hunchback of Notre Dame act somewhere else, I suppose, on the premises. He outdoes Charles Laughton when it comes to theatrical productions.

The Hon. Member was very positive in his statements, positive being—

Ms. Copps: Who speaks for Canada?

Mr. Crosbie: The Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) reminds me of something Ambrose Bierce said: she is always very positive, meaning she is always mistaken at the top of her voice.

What action is being taken? This vessel is in St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Ms. Copps: Come on, John, you're usually better than that. Settle down, baby.

Mr. Crosbie: Officials of External Affairs intervened here to assist the fishermen involved. Apparently—

Mr. Foster: Send in the French subs.

Ms. Copps: They're already there.

Mr. Crosbie: The French have asked for a bond in order to release the vessel and that will be attended to. The French Ambassador has been called in and a protest delivered, and a protest has already been delivered to the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France in France. We have postponed