

Gander—Twillingate or Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe. They have much more knowledge, experience and understanding of the history and sensitivity of the people of Newfoundland to the fishery. However, what I do understand is common sense. I understand the sensitivity of the issue because my riding depends on one resource, nickel. I know how I would feel if the federal Government gave away that resource. How would I feel if nickel were given away to the U.S. or France or some other European power? I know how I would feel, so when I speak in this debate tonight it is from that perspective and understanding.

Tonight in Newfoundland there is great upset and anger.

Mr. McCurdy: Justified anger.

Mr. Rodriguez: Yes, justified anger. I at least recognize that these people understand the fishery. The fishermen are outraged. The Government of Newfoundland, which in a lot of ways is not my favourite kind of Government, God knows, it is a Tory Government, at least knows what is in the best interests of the fishery and Newfoundland. It was elected to look after those interests. It has the mandate. I recognize that the people who run the fishing industry in Newfoundland understand the industry and they are extremely upset at the Government.

What does this say to Canadians in the rest of the country? The signing of this interim agreement speaks volumes to Canadians. It says that the Government negotiated on this issue with the French in the same way it negotiated with the Americans on softwood lumber. In that particular instance the Minister for International Trade (Miss Carney) said she was eyeball to eyeball with the Americans and they blinked three times. In this instance the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) was eyeball to eyeball with the French and I think he blinked four times. Four times! What did we get out of it? It is not for me to start enumerating what Canada and the French got out of it. The people who know most about the issue, the fishermen, the industry and the Government of Newfoundland, said "We got hosed on the deal".

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Rodriguez: I suppose we are pretty lucky we did not have the Minister for International Trade doing the negotiations from the beaches of Hawaii.

An Hon. Member: He was there.

Mr. Rodriguez: Yes, he was right there in the same room with them. That is, after he put everyone else out of the room.

What does this interim agreement say to Newfoundlanders? It says that the Tory Government is saying to the people of Newfoundland, "We do not care two figs about you". After all, that is the same Government which paid Claude Forget \$800 a day plus expenses to say that fishermen ought not to get UIC. That is the same sensitive Government. It is significant that Uncle John got on an open-line radio show after Claude Forget brought down his report and said: "Brothers

and sisters of Newfoundland, just stay calm, we will never put this into effect".

Mr. Benjamin: John who?

Mr. Rodriguez: The godfather of Newfoundland. He said, "We are not going to put this into effect". Look what happened today. They are even starting to put him on the payroll at radio station VOXM. They think he is on staff because he is in there all the time. There he was again today. What was he saying today? He was saying what an insensitive group of people his cabinet colleagues are. That is what he said, they are insensitive.

Mr. Dingwall: He meant to say incompetent.

Mr. Rodriguez: It goes without saying that if you are insensitive and you are a Tory, you are also incompetent.

What took place today with this interim agreement? We gave fishing rights to France that they never had before. What did we get in return? We got the right to negotiate an agreement. That is what we got! This reminds me of a person in his house at night. He hears a burglar downstairs and goes down. The burglar is taking the cutlery. He says "Take the cutlery and here is the VCR, take that too. Take the TV. Take everything. Take it all".

Mr. McCurdy: Then we will negotiate what you can keep.

Mr. Rodriguez: Then let him go right out the door. That is the Tory version of negotiations.

They can laugh all they want but they missed a golden opportunity to climb back up in the polls. They could have had their own Falklands. They could have called out the fleet. They missed their chance again.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans stood up in this House today and said there was unanimity in Cabinet.

Mr. Prud'homme: He is not even here.

Mr. Rodriguez: After that speech he worked himself up so much he had to go out to the radio station. He has an appointment. Unanimity in Cabinet on this deal. That means all of those cabinet Ministers agreed with this interim agreement. They do not care about the people of Newfoundland. The one natural resource which those people brought into Confederation was the fishery. In one stroke of the pen the Government allowed the French fleet to fish more fish off the coast of Newfoundland than all the Canadian fishermen can fish.

Mr. O'Neil: Not true.

Mr. Rodriguez: Get up and make a speech.

Mr. O'Neil: Not true.

Mr. Rodriguez: You will get your chance to make a speech.

Mr. O'Neil: Deal with the facts.