

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I simply remind the Hon. Member that in October of 1986 there was a similar kind of application made. Perhaps it was part and parcel of this same application. Canada protested at that time and drilling was not undertaken. Perhaps the proof is in the pudding.

Ms. Copps: The proof is in the drilling.

Mr. Mazankowski: The fact of the matter is that Canada did protest very vigorously and drilling did not take place.

● (1430)

CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, I want to understand very clearly what the Government has done about this important situation. With respect to extraterritoriality Canadians will remember the Government has already yielded to the Americans on the softwood lumber issue. With respect to sovereignty it has yielded to the French on fishing off the coast of Newfoundland. Did the Deputy Prime Minister say that, notwithstanding earlier Canadian protests, the French have gone ahead and made the decision to drill in our waters?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): The Hon. Leader of the socialist Party is wrong on three counts.

Mr. Broadbent: It would be encouraging if the Government would not only claim it is right but actually do something for once in the interests of Canada. That is what we would like to see the Government do.

CANADIAN PROTEST

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, the Minister says no, the Government did not protest before. I thought he said just a moment ago to someone in the Liberal Party that the Government sent a telegram last year protesting drilling in these waters.

Mr. Mazankowski: The drilling did not take place.

Mr. Broadbent: Presumably if that protest meant anything last year it should mean something this year, unless the Government has abandoned its position. The Minister has now said the Government sent another telegram. Can he tell us what was said, and, if the Government of France plans to ignore it and go ahead and drill in our waters what does the Government of Canada intend to do to stand up for Canadian interests?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, the position of the Government of Canada is the same. It is a disputed area. The fact of the matter is that I have indicated a formal protest

Oral Questions

has been launched. Second, the Prime Minister of Canada and the Prime Minister of France met earlier this day and I can only presume this matter was discussed.

REQUEST THAT PRIME MINISTER BE CONTACTED AT VENICE SUMMIT

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): Mr. Speaker, while they met earlier this day they could have discussed any one of a half dozen matters that come up at a summit. The people of Canada would like to know for sure that they discussed this important question. Will the Minister check with the Prime Minister in Venice and report back to the House tomorrow not only about what took place in that conversation but with assurances that in this case, if not in softwood or fishing, the Canadian Government will make a decision in the interests of Canada for a change and not in the interests of France?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if the Leader of the socialists had not been so busy preparing his questions he would have heard the answer I gave to the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. I indicated that the Prime Minister of Canada and the Prime Minister of France had met and I was awaiting a report. I would certainly report back to the House when I received it.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, after the last seven questions, right about now Canadians are wondering if there is any sight more pitiful than the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada cowering, and expecting the people of Canada to cower with him, before the Treaty of Paris, a 224-year old treaty, one which was signed 104 years before Canada became a nation.

An Hon. Member: You are sick.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair has been very patient. The questions have been long, argumentative, and repetitive. In the interests of other Members who, I know, are waiting to ask questions, I would ask the Hon. Member to get to the point and put the question.

Mr. Tobin: Mr. Speaker, does the Deputy Prime Minister not realize that these are not colonial times? France is not an imperial power. Canada is not some colony of a far-away mother country. Will he today announce measures to ensure that no other nation other than Canada will issue permits for companies to explore and drill for oil in sovereign Canadian waters? Will he do that today?

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, that is the reason for our efforts to get this matter put to arbitration, the action of the French Government in issuing a permit to drill for oil and gas in disputed waters. This is a dispute between Canada and France as to who has the jurisdiction over those waters, as to whose continental shelf they come within, whether it is France through St. Pierre and