

S.O. 29

**Mr. Manly:** The Newfoundland Government was involved in the consultations in an attempt to reach a solution to the problem. That Government was aware of the French overfishing and the danger it represented to the stocks. It knew something had to be done and was involved in the consultation. But it did not agree with the approach the federal Government was prepared to take.

As my Leader pointed out, Premier Peckford sent a letter to the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) in December indicating very clearly that his Government did not want the federal Government to allocate additional areas and additional stocks off the coast of Newfoundland in an attempt to reach an agreement on this. They said that very clearly. Because they took that strong position, the federal Government decided it could only reach an agreement with France by jettisoning the Newfoundland consultation process.

The other Atlantic provinces were also cut out. No wonder we have Tory premiers breaking party ranks. We know there is a fair degree of loyalty to party in Canada. It is not easy for premiers of a party to disagree publicly with their federal counterparts. However, in this case they had no option. In spite of what the Prime Minister said once, these people had no option if they were going to be loyal to their own people and provinces.

• (2120)

We have the Premier of Nova Scotia saying that this deal the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) thinks is so good is going to cost the Atlantic Provinces some \$200 million. Obviously the whole federal-provincial relationship has been betrayed and those five provinces in particular have been betrayed. Third, this is a betrayal of the Atlantic fishery. Premier Peckford has spoken about the importance of the Atlantic fishery to Newfoundland. I would like to read from a paper he presented last year:

On Newfoundland's eastern continental shelf, one of the world's richest marine resources thrives in cold Atlantic waters. The Northern Cod stock is confined to a long, narrow geographic area, extending 1,000 miles along the north and east coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador. For four centuries it has been the basis of settlement and continued development of the greater part of our province. Today it remains our economy's most important resource and the foundation of our fishing industry.

With Newfoundland's entry into Confederation in 1949, and since the 1977 extension of our 200-mile fishing zone, Northern Cod is now a Canadian resource. We would like all Canadians to understand the importance of Northern Cod to the fishing industry and the national economy.

Unfortunately, this Government does not understand the importance of Northern Cod and the fishing industry to Newfoundland or to the national economy. The growth of factory freezer trawlers meant that in the 1950s more and more foreign vessels were coming in and taking a resource which was primarily Newfoundland's up to that time. Therefore, there was a drop in the catch of Newfoundland fishermen from 160,000 tonnes in 1959 to only 34,000 tonnes by 1974. With the establishment of the 200-mile limit there was a gradual rebuilding of those stocks. The 200-mile limit did not include the northern tail of the Grand Banks and there was

foreign fishing in those areas which was still depleting the stocks.

Tom Rideout, the provincial Minister of Fisheries for Newfoundland appeared before the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry of the House on November 4, 1985. He spoke of some of the dangers to the fishery resource of Newfoundland at that time. He pinpointed the danger which would come if we licensed factory freezer trawlers from Canada. Four days later on November 8, the then Minister of Fisheries, the Hon. Erik Nielsen, announced he was licensing three factory freezer trawlers from Canada. That was done in spite of the fact that it was setting a precedent which the French would be sure to follow. Tom Rideout pointed out:

The treaty between Canada and France specifically says the present vessels operating in Canadian waters—even though some of them have factory freezer capability—that capability will not be utilized; they must continue to fish and operate on an equal footing with Canadian vessels.

Once, however, we licensed the factory freezer trawlers of our own to operate in that area, France was free to move in and do as it wanted. Therefore, we set a very bad precedent.

In September the Minister announced a special research project on Northern Cod. The report on the study of cod stocks was tabled in December. On that basis it makes it very hard to understand why the Minister feels it is necessary that the two countries agree to a meeting of Canadian and French scientists as soon as possible to undertake a joint assessment of the state of cod stock off the South Coast of Newfoundland. Where have our Department of Fisheries scientists been all this time? Do we not have that kind of adequate assessment? Why is that part of an announcement? It sounds as though it might be the one positive thing in this announcement, but in fact it should not have been necessary at all if our Department was doing its job.

The Fisheries Council of Canada is very much aware of the danger to our cod stocks from French overfishing and yet, like the provinces, it has insisted that this problem should not be solved by granting extra concessions in Canadian waters to the French fleet. Again, the Government chose to ignore what the fisheries representatives were saying. It ignored what the union was saying and what the provinces which were involved were saying. There is a betrayal, therefore, of the Atlantic fishing industry.

There is a betrayal of the fishermen themselves, of their families and communities. On December 29, less than a month ago, the Department of Fisheries announced cut-backs in the stocks which Canadian fishermen could take in Atlantic Canada. These are cut-backs our fishermen would not be able to take. Yet last week it was announced the French fleet was going to be able to take an additional 15,000 tonnes.

Newfoundland depends upon the fishery. The fishery is perhaps the most vital resource of that province and the wealth of the fishery belongs to the people of Newfoundland. The Government has a responsibility to look after that wealth. When Newfoundland came into Confederation, it brought that wealth to Canada. The federal Government has a trust and