

*Oral Questions*

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** For several days Members have been using the word "hell". I ask all Hon. Members to keep in mind that that may well be offensive to others and to the public which is watching, no matter what the public may sometimes think of this place.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Mr. Speaker, to answer the Hon. Member's question I will again quote the Prime Minister's letter as follows: "What are our objectives? First and foremost to reach agreements that will defend in advance the interests of the Canadian fishing industry in Newfoundland and throughout Atlantic Canada".

## SHARED JURISDICTION INQUIRY

**Mr. George Baker (Gander—Twillingate):** Mr. Speaker, the only significant achievement of the Government in this French fishing fiasco is that today it has apparently convinced the Premier of Newfoundland to stop barking at Ottawa. The Premier of Newfoundland now agrees with the Minister of Transport. The Minister of Transport agrees with the Premier of Newfoundland.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** That's a great accomplishment.

**Mr. Baker:** Mr. Speaker, on this issue two Tories don't make a right.

I will direct my question to the Minister of Transport who has been assigned by the Prime Minister to answer for Newfoundland on this issue. What is meant by "shared jurisdiction"? What line did this Minister feed the Premier of Newfoundland to stop him from barking?

**Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is as angry as a dogfish at the fact that the Premier of Newfoundland and I are heart-to-heart and mind-to-mind on this issue now.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Murphy:** Cheek-to-cheek.

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Cheek-to-cheek and jowl-to-jowl.

**Mr. Crosbie:** I assume that the Hon. Member is delighted that we are prepared to do what the Premiers requested some months ago after the First Ministers' meeting, that is, to discuss the fisheries question when the next major round of constitutional negotiations begins. That is our commitment. We know that the Liberal administration in the past would not do it. I doubt whether the next ones in the 21st century will.

• (1430)

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## CANADA-FRANCE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I can tell the Minister that he better check with the Premier of Newfoundland. He no more likes the substance of this agreement than do other Newfoundlanders, except the Minister. He joins the Opposition in condemning it outright.

**Mr. Crosbie:** We will see you in the by-election.

**Mr. Broadbent:** My question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I have a copy of a document that was produced recently by External Affairs and which perhaps goes a long way to explaining the sell-out of the Newfoundland fishery. It refers to a historic agreement that was negotiated between the Government of Canada and the Government of France last month as: "The most important economic agreement signed by Canada and France in recent years". This External Affairs document refers not to the cod agreement but to another agreement on trade with France being negotiated at the same time. Will the Minister confirm to the House that the reason the Government sold out our cod interest in Newfoundland was to get this agreement on other matters?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, both accusations of the Hon. Member are false, as usual.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, we see how the Minister deals with a document produced by his own Department. According to his Department, this is a historic document on a trade agreement between Canada and France designed to promote joint ventures, investment activities, and the transfer of technology. Will the Minister confirm that in order to get an agreement on all these matters, the Government of Canada was quite prepared to sell out to France with what they wanted on the cod deal?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the document issued by External Affairs is quite correct. What is false is the statement of the Leader of the NDP. What is reprehensible is that he should try to insinuate this kind of accusation into this debate. He should be above that kind of thing.

**Mr. Broadbent:** That is really touching.

## NEWFOUNDLAND PREMIER'S LETTER

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, will the Secretary of State for External Affairs confirm that the Prime Minister received a letter from Premier Peckford in December urging the Government of Canada not to make concessions in the cod area in order to obtain this kind of agreement? Will he confirm that the Government of Newfoundland was deeply concerned and expressed its concern in advance that its