

OPINION

Fishing rights off St. Pierre and Miquelon

— Has Ottawa sold us out?

By Darrell Cole

SO, WHAT ELSE is new? Another scandal for what appears to be an incompetent Government. However this time the scandal does not concern putrid fish, or conflict of interests, it concerns our sovereignty over the waters off of Canada's east coast.

In the Treaty of Paris of 1763 which ended the Seven Years War the French lost all of her possessions in North America except for two small islands off the coast of Newfoundland, St. Pierre and Miquelon. These islands were quite insignificant back then, but today we live in a period of constant over-fishing in Newfoundland's Grand Banks by the fishing fleets of other nations. This led the Canadian Government of Pierre Trudeau to install a 200 mile limit off our shoreline. No foreign ships were allowed to fish inside this two hundred mile limit without the permission of the Canadian Government.

Some countries like our Southern neighbor, the United States, have attempted to disobey the law but they usually paid the consequences of losing their cargoes, paying a large fine, or worse having their ship seized.

With this two hundred mile limit came a conflict between Canada and France over fishing rights in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and in the Atlantic Ocean. France had held onto these two little islands as outposts for their fishing fleets, and the two hundred mile limit meant that the French could not even fish in the waters off two of their colony's. The French Government in Paris asked the Canadian Government if it could have the right to fish inside the two hundred mile limit from its two colonies, St. Pierre and Miquelon. Instead of granting this Ottawa would only give French fishermen a twelve mile limit. This angered the French and they

claimed an area about the size of Nova Scotia to fish in.

The governments of France and Canada entered into negotiations to try and settle this dispute. In the end Ottawa gave the French permission to send fishing fleets from continental France and fish in the disputed waters around St. Pierre and Miquelon to the south of Newfoundland. In return for the fishing rights, France agreed to negotiate the terms of reference for an international tribunal that would arbitrate the dispute, a process which could take four years.

On Wednesday January 28 there was an emergency debate in the House of Commons. During this debate the Minister of Fisheries, the Hon. Tom Siddon promised the provinces that a permanent agreement would never be agreed to without consulting the provinces.

In Newfoundland the mood is a very hostile one. Premier

ARE YOU MAD as hell and won't take it anymore? Get your point across by writing to The Gem, c/o Student Union in the barn, or drop it off at Main Rm. 401 before Friday at 5:00. Submissions MUST be signed by the author and include address. Names kept confidential on request.

Responses to the views expressed here are greatly encouraged. Scribble something down, on a beer-soaked napkin if you must, and send it to The Gem.

Brian Peckford said that Ottawa was selling out its provinces for good foreign relations. A call-in show held on a St. John's radio station suggested that Newfoundland hold a referendum to determine the province's future in Confederation. Some people are even suggesting that Ottawa did this in a move to win votes in Quebec but the Conservatives are denying that. Deputy-Prime Minister Don Mazankowski apologized to Brian Peckford and Newfoundlanders about sacrificing their interests, but it appears as though this is not a case of forgive-and-forget.

The main concern with this problem is our sovereignty over water which is supposed to be ours. Last summer it was the Polar Sea which challenged our sovereignty over the Northwest Passage. The United States insists that the Northwest passage is in international waters. Canada said that they were Canadian terri-

torial waters but being friends allowed the American icebreaker to proceed. This led Canada to make moves to strengthen its sovereignty in the North. This situation with France is just another challenge to our sovereignty, but this time the situation is completely different.

This French claim will interfere directly with the lives of Canadians, especially Newfoundlanders. The major source of income for the people of Newfoundland is its fishery. If the French take control of the waters around St. Pierre and Miquelon, use gunboats to assert their authority, which has been rumored they will do but it is very doubtful they will, and overfish, which it has already indicated that it will ignore Canada's cod quota, then the fishing industry for Newfoundland will be ruined. It would take forever for Brian Mulroney's Conservatives to clean up that mess.

Home Economics is not a joke

DID YOU KNOW that presently there are people graduating UPEI with a Bachelor of Science majoring in Home Economics. Yes — it's true. I find it hard to believe that there are some people who do not know this, so I have decided to thrill all of you unbelievers with some amazing facts about Home Economics. Home Economics is not a joke, and hopefully, by the end of this semester I won't hear any more guys walking past Dalton Hall saying to his buddies, "Hey, boys, let's go in there and get ourselves a wife."

In 1973, the Home Economics staff redesigned Dalton Hall from a residence area for students to what the building is today. Our total course enrollment for the two semesters this year is 388 students. I am proud to say we have 8 graduating this year.

There is a philosophy behind Home Economics. Our focus is the "home" — always remembering the people, we bring together elements of various disciplines. We really are more than sewing and cooking. Management, finance and communication courses are also part of our studies.

Some people who have already finished our program are presently working as teachers at high school and university level, in hospitals as dietitians, and several graduates are doing extension work in various provinces.

Graduates have found their education useful in opening their own businesses, while others have gone on with their studies in Law, Medicine, Design, Textiles, Nursing, Social Work, Agriculture, and chartered Accounting. Other occupations include public relations on local T.V. and radio stations, and working as home economists in a food processing plant.

But why, you might ask, is Home Economics considered a science? It is both because we are required to have a good scientific background in both Biology and Chemistry (we deal with human nutrition). Our required courses include Chem 110, Bio 110, Organic Chemistry (for a Dietitian only), MicroBiology, and human Physiology.

I hope this helps some people to better understand what Home Economics is and what it involves. I would like to challenge other faculties to show the students of UPEI what their program is all about as I, hopefully, have done by writing this.

— Dawn Lewis

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