

*Regional Development*

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Order, please. The Chair understands. There has been calmness in the Chamber today. I understand that there can be very heated debate at this time of the day. However, I would like the Hon. Member to know that what he raises is still a point of debate and not a point of order. As long as language that is unparliamentary is not used then that is fine. However, if the Hon. Member starts to use unparliamentary language, then I will bring him to order.

This is Private Members' hour and Hon. Members are wasting their own time. The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary will have the floor next. I am at the disposal of Hon. Members. However, I would appreciate very much if Hon. Members would be calm and enter into debate as it should be entered into. The Hon. Member for Papineau.

[Translation]

**Mr. Ouellet:** I appreciate your understanding, Mr. Speaker, and I hope these untimely interventions will not be included in my allotted time.

I was saying that the motion of the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie—

**Mr. Tremblay (Lotbinière):** We do not all act the same way. What do you want me to tell you? The Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart)—

**Mr. Ouellet:** There must be something wrong with the Member for Lotbinière. Mr. Speaker, I was saying that the motion clearly urges the Government to consider the advisability of intervening in the matter of the industrial decline of the eastern sector of Montreal by designating the said area (Zone 4), which would promote economic development and job creation in that area which has been severely affected ever since the Conservative Party took office. This would also make it easier for Versatile-Vickers, Bombardier and C.S.W. to land contracts. Since the Conservatives took over these companies have not been awarded contracts as they used to get from the federal Government.

Now it is unfortunate that the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret), who is supposed to be the Minister in charge of a committee which will be asked to find solutions to the problems in east-Montreal, is not here today to take part in this debate. I deeply sympathize with the Minister of Public Works who at the last minute has had to uphold an indefensible cause. It is obvious that the Minister is always away when there is a difficult problem to be solved. We know it. He was not in Montreal when his colleague announced the closing-down of the Gulf refinery in east-end Montreal. The President of the Treasury Board was absent then and again today while my colleague from Montreal—Sainte-Marie is raising in the House a very important point. The President of the Treasury Board who should be looking after that case is away.

I can understand why he is not here and why his colleague, the Minister of Public Works is left to defend the case because he did not give him the information he needed. The Minister of Public Works has just stated in reply to my colleague from Montreal—Sainte-Marie: "You have forgotten a ratten

important contract granted in east-end Montreal which will solve the problem." He was referring to that small grant given to Pratt & Whitney and to SPAR Aerospace. Now SPAR Aerospace has contradicted the Minister when the announcement was made, as the Minister of State (Small Business) (Mr. Bissonnette) was bragging and trying to make us believe that hundreds of jobs would be created with a grant which had only been extended under a number of programs set up between SPAR Aerospace and the former Liberal Government. Indeed, that grant had nothing to do with the program and the problems existing in east-end Montreal, as everybody knows. I see the Hon. Member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Cadieux) is here. That important industry is not in east-end Montreal, but rather in west-end Montreal.

I am very pleased that this Conservative Government has continued those grants to SPAR Aerospace, which is located in west-end Montreal, and to Pratt & Whitney which is located on the South Shore, because in both cases that program was initiated under the previous Liberal administration and deserves to be maintained. But what they failed to honour is the series of promises made by the previous Government to companies in east-end Montreal. My colleague for Montreal—Sainte-Marie is perfectly right when he suggests that Bombardier and Vickers were betrayed with the cancellation of agreements that existed under the previous Liberal Government. Because the Liberals ensured that the three Quebec shipyards would be granted contracts, that we would help the Lauzon shipyard, the Sorel shipyard and the one in Montreal, the Versatile Vickers shipyard in east-end Montreal.

But the promises made by the previous Government to the Vickers' workers in east-end Montreal have not been honoured by this Conservative Government. The same goes for Bombardier. And with respect to that industry, which went into operation early in this century, which has always been granted locomotive building contracts, which has always been awarded contracts by the Government to provide employment for hundreds of specialized workers, both at Bombardier's and the forge or the foundry, never in the past did a Canadian Government abdicate its responsibilities toward those companies, those specialized workers.

What we say is that the Conservative Government does not have a procurement policy in the area of transportation. We say that the Conservative Government tried to stop committing funds to support the purchase by Crown corporations, the Canadian National, VIA Rail, of the locomotives and the rolling stock which would enable employees in Montreal East to work in dignity.

The Minister of Public Works (Mr. La Salle) may find some comfort in a long speech in which he tells us that many jobs were created in Canada, but he should keep in mind that because of the lack of action of his Government in Montreal East, one Minister, one of his colleagues, resigned from the Conservative Cabinet and one Hon. Member from Montreal East does not sit anymore as a Conservative.