

*Regional Development*

tives of that party stand up in the House and try to justify this sort of activity.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member's time has expired. The hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle).

[Translation]

**Mr. Roch La Salle (Joliette):** Mr. Speaker, I was particularly anxious to participate in this debate because I represent a riding that has benefitted, for over a year now, from the advantages which derived from the programs of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

The privilege the minister granted my riding has been quite useful; I know a certain number of industries were able to settle there, and that some others derived some benefits.

As opposed to the mover of the motion, of course, I believe far more than he does in the validity of that policy. I feel there is far too much generalizing with regard to some of the weaknesses that may exist in so broad an Act as that on the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. I feel that we would stand to gain if, objectively, we brought out the positive results of that act, if we really want to dispel some of the doubts and misgivings of the people.

I would like especially to point out to the government and to the minister the importance of this legislation for my area. I think that my first responsibility is to request that the government give a very special attention to the 30th of June when designated areas will be reviewed and I make this request on behalf of the businessmen in my riding and the municipalities which are exceedingly fascinated by this policy and which could obtain far more benefits than hitherto.

I believe it is my duty to request the special attention of the minister to my region, not only to maintain the designation that it has already acquired, but to ask him to consider the economic pattern that is ours and the difficulties we encounter in terms of unemployment.

My riding borders on an area which is going through quite an amazing development, the area of the airport at Sainte-Scholastique which enjoys a more advantageous designation. There are also surrounding ridings which are accorded more substantial grants than mine.

Therefore I take the liberty, on behalf of all the people concerned in my riding—who are entitled, I think, to the same benefits—of asking the minister to weigh the difficulties against the advantages that a more attractive designation would bring about. As regards the particular review of my riding, I believe, thanks to the minister's objectivity and his efforts to secure not only investments,

but also to make economic injections in various areas, that my riding could enjoy, through a more advantageous designation, the same benefits as accrued to some ridings adjoining mine as well as the area which will benefit from the airport at Sainte-Scholastique.

I am confident that my recommendation today in this debate that bears particularly on the department of Regional Economic Expansion will be well understood by the minister. I know that he knows well the area that I represent and I must say after all that for the past year and a half, contrary to the views expressed in this House today, all those men and women who have requested services of the department of Regional Economic Expansion have met with excellent co-operation from that department on various kinds of problems.

With respect to this legislation, although it contains some shortcomings or poses some problems, I must admit that on the whole, we must support it as serious members of Parliament if we want to serve the people because this legislation represents very considerable efforts on the government's part.

Again, we should maybe be thinking of working in a more positive or a more effective way with regard to the industry which has had to disappear and I did not think it fair to blame the minister for the difficulties we are facing. We have a duty, as responsible members of the House and as men anxious to serve their country, to acknowledge his efforts.

The co-operation of opposition members is also necessary. We have a responsibility to forget about our electoral interests, which in a while may be very useful, to try and think rather of the interests of a society which demands and requires co-operation of its representatives. The government, which after all is aware of this situation, is prepared to study concrete proposals to realize its objectives in the best interests of the Canadian people. But for that we need to be more positive than we have been so far, and not limit ourselves to making the kind of negative criticism of which we hear far too much in this House.

Mr. Speaker, my time has expired, and I like to think that my remarks will have served the best interests of the area which I have the honour of representing.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Honey):** It being five o'clock, it is my duty to inform the House that, pursuant to Standing Order 58(11), debate on the motion is over.

The House stands adjourned until Monday next at 2 p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 2(1).

At 5 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.