

intend to continue in that direction since my health has improved.

There are two small things I would like to mention today. First, I would like to address the people of Quebec and particularly the PQ government leaders. I would like to ask them—and I appreciate they might not be pleased with or pay any attention to my suggestion—but I would like to ask them—please refrain from distorting facts about French Canadians outside Quebec. I know a little about that because I am of French expression and I come from a French community in Ontario.

To hear Premier Lévesque, other ministers and PQ sympathizers in the province of Quebec, it looks as if we were totally oppressed people, whose rights are openly encroached upon, who have major and unsolvable problems in the province of Ontario. I want to make it clear to the people of Quebec and mainly to those in the government of Quebec that it is totally erroneous. I have good reasons to believe that in some communities where the number of French Canadians is very small, they might not enjoy all the rights they are entitled to. However, the great majority of French Canadians outside Quebec live in areas like mine, Timmins, like Hearst, Sudbury, Ottawa, all areas where we are absolutely and perfectly entitled to all the rights that we need and that we desire, and with these rights we can live our life in our language, in French, without neglecting the rest of the community. Quite the opposite, we participate in the life of both the local community and the greater community of our Ontarian neighbours, even though they are not of French extraction.

I wish the Parti Québécois would stop misleading the people of Quebec. And if my colleagues of Quebec want to ask me to go in their region to explain how things are where we live to Quebecers who are not aware of the situation, I shall be happy to do so. I had the honour to be a member of the committee on the Constitution a few years ago, as you may remember, Mr. Speaker, and everywhere I went in Quebec, I said for instance that in Timmins, there are at least 5,000 or 6,000 students in French elementary schools, that there are at least 2,000 students in a French secondary school—not a bilingual school but a French school—and all that under a public board—not a French board, but a multilingual public board—with all the subsidies and the rights of all other public schools. When I told this to our good friends and our colleagues, then to my cousins—because my father and mother were born in Quebec even though I myself was not—people were quite surprised and even astonished. They said: “This cannot be.” It certainly is!

I ask my colleagues to invite me if they have an opportunity to do so, and I shall be happy to explain the situation to the people of Quebec. Of course, I have not the linguistic ability of my colleagues and perhaps of many Quebecers, but I believe I can make myself understood. I would say that in Ontario, in the areas where there is a substantial French population, we have certainly stopped living in the past, living in history and living ideals. For our part, we would rather live in the present and for the future. I believe that unless our friends in Quebec

do the same, it will be very difficult to solve the problem. I believe there is a recommendation I can make which would be very helpful.

Without mentioning the present Parti Québécois government which, I am convinced, will not be there for long, I would invite Quebecers themselves to come to Timmins, to come to Sudbury, to come to North Bay and see what is going on over there and learn who are the liars, who is spreading lies among the population. They will be in a position to judge whether it is the Quebec ministers, or the PQ members or us, who come from these areas, who live with this situation and who can say exactly what it is all about. That is why I invite all these people to come and visit us. When you come to see us, you will certainly be welcome and I can say that you will feel at home.

I take as an example, Mr. Speaker, my own riding. Last spring, Mr. Bérubé, the Quebec Minister of Natural Resources, announced a new aid program for mines, for the operation of mines or at least the exploration of sites to develop mines in northwestern Quebec. We applauded this program because it was long overdue. I believe the minister or the government should have long before taken the initiative of such a program. That is why we applauded. But when the minister made a statement to announce this new program, I was terribly upset by the lies and falsehoods the minister spread about in advance to justify this new program.

First, he spoke of Texasgulf which is located in my city, in my riding. He claimed that the federal government was playing a game, and depriving Quebec of jobs to give them to Timmins in the province of Ontario because, he added, the federal government, through the Canadian Development Corporation, in fact controls Texasgulf. Therefore, the federal government had decided, for Texasgulf, that it would build a processing plant in Timmins rather than continue sending the ore to the refinery in Noranda to be processed.

So there we are, Mr. Speaker: Mr. Bérubé claimed that the province of Ontario restricts producers or refiners of ore to operating in Ontario, which is completely false. According to the Ontario law, 50 per cent of the ore must be processed in Canada, not in Ontario, but in Canada. Naturally, that is why Texasgulf could, until now, send 50 per cent of its production of copper ore to Noranda. An agreement was signed between the two companies, an agreement which benefitted both economically, which is why that agreement is still in force.

He further said that Texasgulf was controlled by the Canadian Development Corporation thus by the federal government, which is once again completely false, as the Canadian Development Corporation controls 30 per cent of the shares of Texasgulf. The shareholders allowed the Canadian Development Corporation to have three directors out of 13 on the board of the company through a gentlemen's agreement. Thus, if the matter had been put to the vote among the shareholders, the corporation would not probably have even three directors. Therefore the government of Canada does not control Texasgulf as they have only three shareholders or directors out of 13. Again, this is false.