

have available. He asked why the report has not been released. I can tell him that the report on one document, the Niagara River Toxic Commission document, is in fact prepared for release. Our position has always been that we wanted to get the response of the Government of Ontario and the Government of the United States before releasing our report. We have been ready to release that report for some time now and it will be out, probably within the next week or two.

**Mr. Caccia:** You are blaming it on the Government of Ontario now, is that what you are saying?

**Mr. Gurbin:** Not at all. I indicated that our position was and has been that we would hold our official response until such time as we receive the official responses of the Government of Ontario and the Government of the United States.

With regard to the second report, the action plan that was presented by Mr. Thomas to the Minister last week, it has been identified by the Minister. I do not think there was any conflict of confusion in his response. In fact, I think it was quite capably handled. We are considering this as a working document. If the Member wants to write to Washington for a report and it is released, that is his prerogative. Our position is that this is a working document. We have organized a meeting for November 8 between the principal parties which are Canada, the United States, the State of New York and the Government of Ontario. At that time all parties will sit down to work on this document and initiate the changes that we feel appropriate.

● (1830)

The Member also asked—

**Mr. Caccia:** It is public knowledge south of the border.

**Mr. Gurbin:** If the Hon. Member wants me to answer the question in the time I have available, he will have to listen rather than interrupt.

With respect to money, I can tell the Member that at least \$1 billion so far has been spent by the Americans. I presume that he is concerned about the Americans. While Mr. Thomas was in Canada he stated privately and publicly that hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funds will be required and available when necessary. The exact amount is not the issue. The issue is to take real action to clean up the river. The bottom line is to eliminate the pollutants that are causing the problems. We have admitted that this will require a large amount of money. The Americans have admitted that as well and they are prepared to pay those amounts.

The Hon. Member has indicated that he is unhappy about a number of steps taken by the Government and the Minister. The plan we have received is not final. We have an opportunity to make it as complete and precise as possible in regard to the important matters before us. We are encouraged by our progress so far, although we realize more work needs to be done. The Americans will readily admit that as well.

### *Adjournment Debate*

The Hon. Member for Davenport might be encouraged by a comment from his leader in Ontario who indicates that although different technical approaches can be taken, he was encouraged by the vigour shown by Mr. Thomas and is confident that progress can be made.

#### [Translation]

CORPORATIONS—TAKEOVER OF MONTREAL EAST COMPANY—  
(A) ECONOMIC IMPACT. (B) SITUATION IN MONTREAL EAST—  
GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard-Anjou):** Mr. Speaker, my question concerns the closing down of S.Q.D. Technologie de Ville d'Anjou, in the riding of Saint-Léonard-Anjou, and the fact that on November 23, 250 jobs will be lost, adding to the already long list of jobs lost in Montreal East, which is getting longer every day, Mr. Speaker.

In my question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Côté) last Tuesday, I mentioned that this operation is rather strange since the only competitor in Quebec manufacturing suspension systems for trucks and automobiles has been taken over with a specific view to closing it down. And I asked the Minister how we allow competition to be eliminated in this and all other sectors? This is a very dangerous process indeed, Mr. Speaker, and we are moving towards a monopoly system which, of course, goes against our free enterprise system.

I want to know why the Minister did not take action. Does he intend to do anything and could we act before November 23 to prevent the loss of those 250 jobs which would create a very unfortunate situation in an area where poverty is ever-increasing?

My supplementary was also directed to the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) and concerned the fact that aside from competition, Mr. Speaker, that company is being taken over by a group of foreign investors. I was wondering whether we could have prevented that transaction if the Foreign Investment Review Agency were still in force . . . and now, nothing can be done through Investment Canada. As a matter of fact, I did ask the Minister of Industrial Regional Development to do something about it. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, he told me that the mandate of Investment Canada was not to allow foreigners to take over plants in order to close them down. But that did happen, so I am asking him if this is government policy. Is the Minister going to do something about this? Could these 200 jobs possibly be saved? I am expecting a positive answer tonight, not for my own sake, but for those 200 jobs in Ville d'Anjou which are so important for the people of that community.

● (1835)

#### [English]

**Mr. Bill Domm (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post):** Mr.