

moderator—brought up the question of the transfer of certain maritime operations from the Quebec City area to the Montreal region. One of the members then said that this matter was vital, that there was no way to stop it, that it would mean a loss of employment in the Quebec City area in favour of the Montreal area, but that the move involved the operations of a private company and that it was impossible to interfere in the matter. I am happy to see my colleague, the hon. member for Langelier (Mr. Lamontagne), who was recently appointed to the cabinet, for which I sincerely congratulate him. I know that he is an able man and that he held the important position of mayor in Quebec City, where he did a very good job, as I have already said, and I am sincerely pleased to repeat it in this House. Today, I would like to urge him to give his support to his colleagues who took part in this television program in favour of keeping the operations in the Quebec City area, whether in the maritime sector or the industrial development area, and I sincerely appeal to him as a member of Parliament and not as a member of a political party to use his influence so that the Quebec City area will not be disadvantaged in favour of Montreal because of exceptional circumstances following the Olympic Games. Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that the minister understands the point I want to make and that he will consider it his duty to outline accurately the economic needs of the Quebec City area so that it can be recognized that the south shore area has been disadvantaged in the past and needs to benefit from this legislation.

During the debate on Bill C-11, I even wrote to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) and asked him to introduce an amendment having regard to the area affected by the bill and concerning tax credits for industries in the Atlantic provinces, extending from Gaspésie to Rivière-du-Loup, so that this area be included in the law providing grants for the transport of goods in the eastern area ending at the road going from Lévis to the American border. Unfortunately this amendment was not introduced, which is not to say that I gave up and changed my mind about the feasibility of this idea. Maybe some day the Minister of State, the hon. member for Langelier, might convince his cabinet colleagues of the soundness of this proposal and the necessity for the industries in this area to benefit from the same advantages.

At it happened, Mr. Speaker, on Monday when the House resumed I met the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Lessard) and spokesmen for an important industry established in the south shore area. Because of their vivacity, their vigour and their youth, these people, who believe in the future, have managed to conquer a market outside Canada and create quite a few jobs in a given community. They can give expansion to their industry and create about thirty new jobs, which is quite appreciable in a community which is home to hardly more than 2,000 or 3,000 people. Of course this calls for co-operation from government authorities and from DREE.

So I think that if we could provide this industry with the benefits of this legislative measure, Bill C-23, it would be of tremendous help for them to pursue their operations and corner new markets in the United States. Even if the province

Income Tax Act

of Quebec is involved and there are misunderstandings between the two levels of government, my feeling is that we, as responsible members of parliament, must do our duty and try not to make things more difficult. We should show the people in our areas that there must be in this country a federal government, it must supervise across the country the economic well-being and development of our regions, in order that each and everyone can take advantage of the legislation and benefits that a united Canada can bring them, in whatever province.

As far as I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, I have always been very optimistic in nature, and I am still more so today. I have a conviction that with legislation as that now before us, even if not perfect, there is a will to improve things for industries so they may create jobs to lessen the unemployment plague in our province and our country as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I remember when we discussed Bill C-11, my colleague the hon. member for Rimouski (Mr. Allard) put forward an amendment to increase the exemption for workers, the \$250 allowance proposed in the bill that workers could deduct from their revenues for income tax purposes. My colleague suggested the amount should be increased to \$400.

I still think that such an amendment could have increased to that extent the workers' purchasing power. It should be remembered the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the Minister of Finance suggested during these last months that the purchasing power of consumers must be raised, to increase the consumption of Canadian goods so our industries could operate on a more continuous basis and get rid of their inventories, so the products could reach households where they are needed, thereby increasing employment if possible and reaching for that common goal of ours, which is that every Canadian while earning a living can make a contribution not only to a higher gross national product but also to better competitiveness on the international markets, so that we can produce better quality products and allow our industries to better compete with imports.

● (1612)

Early this week, I received a report from a textile industry in my area informing me of the sad plight of those industries, particularly the one involved. I dealt with this last December and I emphasized that those factory owners are showing great courage in holding on while making little or no profit, in the hope that the central government, through stricter controls on imports, will enable these industries to get a greater share of the market and to maintain at least the same level of employment as in 1977.

Now, Mr. Speaker, in addition to this measure provided for in Bill C-23, I would like to make again the same suggestion I made before in this House and which was even considered on an opposition day. At that time, I appreciated the position taken by all members of this House, from whatever party, because this motion was looked into carefully, objectively and sincerely by all members who participated in the debate on that opposition day, and I refer to the discount on the price of