

practically all the cases he quoted, if I am not mistaken, come under the old act and not under the new one. There may be one exception. However, with your leave I shall reply on some other occasion. He may question me in the House, if he cares, but I could not afford enough time to prepare a summary of the cases coming under the old act on industrial incentives. My department had no choice, it had to do something about it.

Well, this is the scandal that was referred to this morning! We are charged with having provided grants to American corporations such as IBM. However, no mention was made of the funds that were provided to Stelco, for instance, a provincially-owned Nova Scotia steel company. This steel company would have shut down within a few years, had it not been decided to have it modernized now. The Department of Economic Regional Expansion granted this company \$15 million so it could modernize and continue operations, but not a word is said about that. No, not a single word! This is much too risky.

We did also help Dosco Industries Limited, in Quebec. The amount involved was much smaller, but we did help them.

Were there any responsible remarks made about that? No doubt the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald) will raise a point because, according to him, it is obvious the department did nothing. One only has to refer to the speech delivered by the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) to note that nothing whatsoever was said about it. We are being accused of lacking a global strategy and of making whimsical ad hoc decisions.

• (1430)

There is first of all, an overall strategy, which may be criticized as such, as the hon. member for Egmont will probably not fail to do. I am thinking, for instance, of the FRED program in Prince Edward Island. I am not saying it is perfect. I say: Here is an effort made by two governments—the one in Ottawa and the one in Prince Edward Island—in order to try and establish a comprehensive 15-year program to improve the situation. Let people criticize the program—I do not know whether I will be here when the hon. member does so, but I find this perfectly natural. I am not saying we came up with a masterpiece. But to go and say there have been no efforts made is really to be irresponsible.

Some members of this House claim that some day they will be able to govern this country. This is rather amusing, especially when their leader is talking!

If people want to criticize the Eastern Quebec Planning Bureau, they can do so—it is an overall program. Studies were started in 1960. Mistakes have probably been made. There are still some things we will be changing—but to go and say that there has been no overall effort, no overall strategy, to try and develop that area is to be so partisan that it makes me wonder how such people can possibly claim that they are representing public opinion in the House of Commons!

I am not trying to put an end to criticism. I know that newspaper reporters are so fanatic that they are bent on slaughtering us by saying: You cannot even criticize what Mr. Marchand is doing, he is so thin-skinned. I do not

### *Regional Development*

mind criticism. I spent my life being criticized, and also criticizing others. I do not object to it.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am shocked by the kind of talk which I have been hearing in this place since this morning. I am shocked that public funds are used to provide research staff for the opposition parties and they do not even bother using them to call and check the most basic facts.

People have tried to prove how irresponsible the department was just because there have been bankruptcies. The hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath) seeks out bankruptcies and hopes to detect the smell of petty scandals somewhere, and that will be funny. No doubt it will be. Besides, this is his job, but I regret that he does nothing but that. He should also do something, for example, to understand what is being done generally. It is true that bankruptcies have occurred. I am aware of 14 since the implementation of the new program and they amount to almost \$900,000. I am not happy about it and it will be necessary to exercise more caution in the future, all the more when \$40 million have already been paid up to now.

I am not happy and I do not like it, Mr. Speaker, but I do know that the leader of the hon. member for St. John's East has, in a single shot, lost around \$30 to \$40 million with his heavy water plant. This does not mean that the former premier of Nova Scotia is a thief, since he tried too much, but it can be said that he lacked foresight. Anyway he missed that opportunity.

I wonder therefore why people are shocked when a minister tries out new programs. Of course, a number of mistakes on bankruptcies may occur and that does not make me happy, far from it, but I will try to correct them.

Now people give us advice but the way they go about it is like my saying to a mechanic: "Look here, old man, before you find out what the trouble is with this car, have you turned on the ignition key, have you put the car into gear?" But people would say to me: "Listen, this is a mechanic."

An hon. member has asked: "Have you conducted market surveys? Are you aware that the construction of a plant would eliminate another and that you do away with jobs in an area and create others elsewhere? Do you take this into account? Well, we have extremely competent people—

[English]

**Mr. Mazankowski:** That is gorgeous.

[Translation]

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member may come to my department. He could spend one day there and would not understand anything.

Those studies are carried out most seriously since we want all these programs to be efficient.

[English]

**Mr. Mazankowski:** When are you going to answer the phone calls?

**Mr. Marchand (Langelier):** You spoke this morning and I gave you every opportunity to speak without interruption.