

Supply

a major Quebec industry. They began last Fall lifting quotas on some types of footwear.

The survey of textile and clothing industries carried out by the Federal Government has shown that the decline or wiping out of manufacturing activities in medium-sized cities would create a vacuum that would be hard to fill. Yet, almost 80 per cent of all the towns with 10,000 people or more have textile activities, especially in Quebec, Mr. Speaker.

I travelled personally to Sherbrooke, to Magog, and I went through Saint-Jean and other communities in the Richelieu area which depend on the textile and clothing industry—

Since my visit last year, Mr. Speaker, some of the plants I saw have had either to close their doors or else to reduce substantially their workforce because of competition from imports.

Mr. Speaker, what is the Government doing about the textile industry? We have been waiting for a textile policy for one year. We thought that the former Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion had been able to convince the Minister of Finance to accept a policy which would preserve this industry of great importance for Quebec. However, the Minister had to resign because of problems unrelated to the situation in Quebec.

Has his successor given any priority to this matter? Apparently not, since we are now near the end of June. People in the industry no longer know whether they should invest and try to find new markets or continue this contraction of the industry because of their experience of the last few years.

Mr. Speaker, nothing is being done in the shipbuilding industry. The future of a major shipyard has been entrusted to the president of the other two shipyards in Quebec. Without any call for tenders, a \$130 million contract has been given to the Lauzon shipyard. There was no opportunity for others to compete.

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member who spoke earlier mentioned the situation in Eastern Montreal. We have to wonder why, if Canadair has to be privatised, the Government did not ensure that the purchaser of Canadair would be a Quebec company. Why did the Government allow Montreal to lose its fourth oil refinery with the closure of Gulf? This brings the total of jobs lost in Eastern Montreal since 1982 to 1,700. Why have over 7,000 jobs been lost in Eastern Montreal since 1982 and why are 5,000 more jobs being threatened?

Mr. Speaker, why did this new Government, which had promised change, do nothing to develop a Canadian purchasing policy which could help companies such as Bombardier, Canadian Steel Wheel and Canadian Steel Foundries, which are all located in Eastern Montreal and which are all threatened in the short or the long term by a shortage of contracts?

Mr. Speaker, how is it that since October, 1985, the Montreal East area has lost approximately 2,400 industrial jobs, and that the Advisory Committee has not yet made

public its recommendations which could start addressing the problem?

Mr. Speaker, how is it that the Treasury Board which is to award contracts by the end of June for the maintenance of its F-18 fleet has done nothing to make sure that these contracts go to Quebec and ensure the survival of the Spar Aerospace industry in that area?

If I ask all these questions, Mr. Speaker, it is because we, in the New Democratic Party, strongly believe that the time has come for a development policy not only for the city of Montreal or the Quebec area, but for all regions in the Province of Quebec.

Last year, our task force on employment visited all parts of Quebec. We saw just how much initiatives there is at the level of private contractors, cities, industrial commissions, boards of trade, unions. Mr. Speaker, this initiative should be used to develop in Quebec a truly exciting economy, with an unemployment level similar to that of Ontario, with a growth rate comparable to that of the rest of the country, because it is neither desirable nor necessary for Quebec to have a depressed economy when the rest of Canada is starting to recover.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Comments. The Hon. Member for Abitibi (Mr. St. Julien) has the floor.

Mr. St-Julien: Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the remarks made by the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre. He talked a lot about Quebec and mentioned that his task force had visited all parts of "*La belle province*". I am sorry, but I represent a riding covering an area of 740,000 square kilometres. I have never seen him. I have never seen the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre in Abitibi and I have never seen his task force either.

To return to free trade, it is unfortunate, but recently, Mr. Parizeau, a former PQ Member, stated that free trade would benefit Quebec because Quebecers are ready to meet competition head on. And to return to his study which referred . . . When he said that a study had been prepared in Quebec, I should like him to indicate what study he is talking about. I know that recently secret information has been made public in a magazine, but it has nothing to do with a report prepared by the Government of Quebec, it comes from a private study. But I would like him to tell me where he got his information.

Turning to various sectors, he did not mention the forest sector in Quebec and the \$300 million agreements between Quebec and Ottawa; he did not mention either the tourism sector and the \$100 million agreements between Quebec and Ottawa. This is dialogue, I point out to the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre. This is the first time after a good number of years that a Government sets about dialoguing with its constituents and with working groups.

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre were to visit Abitibi, he would find after a year that all is going fine. We do have some chance mishaps, some strikes, that's normal. I was once president of a union. Strikes