

that case. Year in and year out, their party denounced make-shift job creation projects, but now we know the Newport plant will stay closed, which is why the Minister of State (Small Businesses) went over there to promote Canada Works projects. That is exactly what they beefed about for years on end. All they want to do now with funds allocated to the Gaspé region is to make sure that those people will have their ten weeks of unemployment insurance benefits. But their plant will stay closed.

Mr. Speaker, I could talk about a lot of people. The Minister had been sitting on the Petromont file since September 4, but the Right Hon. the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) twisted his arm until he finally agreed to give \$15 million to rescue Petromont. But, Mr. Speaker, that is a temporary measure until the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion can come up with what he called a long term solution. It was one way to buy time, rather expensively at \$15 million, but he had to keep everybody at bay until March 31. Well, Mr. Speaker, what has the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion been doing since then? Did you hear him announce his long term solution for Quebec's petrochemical industry? Everything was supposed to be settled after March 31. No, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion would much rather dabble in international trade than settle the Petromont issue.

Talking about major regional economic projects, Mr. Speaker, whatever happened to the French coal plant? It is another project that has been shelved because this Government does not want to make decisions. We are talking about a \$500 million plant, yet the Minister and the Government keep putting off the construction of this plant so vital to the Bécancour region.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister's pitiful performance in the Melchers case is well known. The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret) was also against temporary job creation programs—band-aids on festering wounds, he said—but what did they offer to Melchers workers? More of the same, Canada Works! Mr. Speaker, I am sure that the people of Berthierville would not appreciate seeing the Hon. Member for Gatineau (Mrs. Maily) laugh at their serious problems. The people of Berthierville are entitled to steady and well-paid jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I will not mention the Wabasso fiasco, another horror story. The first thing I heard about when I got up this morning was that Quebec had another problem—550 more jobs lost in Montreal. Stelco will be meeting the unions today and tomorrow to say goodbye. It is as simple as that. Five hundred and fifty people out of a job, who will probably get a severance bonus that the Minister of Employment and Immigration will deduct from their unemployment insurance. Mr. Speaker, this is appalling. This is a government that claims it is very sensitive to regional realities and to the problems of the

little man. Mr. Speaker, what is the Government going to offer the workers at Stelco?

Mr. Speaker, this Government is terribly confused, and I am referring to the soft sectors of our industry. The Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion told people in the textile and clothing industry that they were going to be guaranteed a share of the Canadian market. The Minister for International Trade goes abroad and says that the Government is in favour of free trade. Could these two Ministers perhaps get their act together, Mr. Speaker? One is in favour of global quotas, and one is for a totally open market, and then our national "kid kodak", the Prime Minister, went to Bonn and said: We are going to set an example for dealing with Third World countries, and we are going to open our borders to their textiles and clothing. Mr. Speaker, people who make a living in this industry expect some kind of policy from this Government, and that is the kind of concern that exists throughout Quebec.

Mr. Speaker, I could give you some examples, but I would like to summarize the position taken by the famous Ministers from Quebec. Their colleague, the Minister of State for Small Businesses, was speaking on their behalf when he said that the Minister wanted to make it clear that the 10 Conservative Ministers from Quebec were not working for the benefit of Quebec. Mr. Speaker, this is the kind of statement we get from the Minister of State for Small Businesses, who said that for him, Quebec's interests were not a priority. I realize he has a national role, but he was not elected nationally, Mr. Speaker, and he should at least have the decency to acknowledge the concerns of the people who elected him, and his Cabinet colleagues should also make sure that Quebec's concerns get special attention.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take advantage of the fact that the Minister of State for Transport is in the House, and I am sure he is concerned about economic spinoffs for Quebec—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Gatineau.

Mrs. Maily: The Hon. Member referred to the presence of specific Members in the House, and I would also like to say that he is abusing his privilege, because the relevance of his comments is starting to break down.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I do not believe that this is a point of order. The Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre).

[Translation]

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, I would say that ever since the Hon. Member set foot in the House, ever since September 4, she has done nothing but utter insignificant remarks and interrupt Hon. Members. If she has nothing constructive to say, let her shut up, Mr. Speaker.