

*Regional Development*

Mr. Speaker, I could spend all my time criticizing and looking at what happened in the past. However, I don't think the 300 employees at Versatile-Vickers, and all the other employees at Gulf and Bombardier who want to save their jobs, want us to make political speeches just to say whose fault it was and when we lost the most jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I think the Government will have an opportunity in the weeks and months to come to set up a form of assistance for Montreal East. First of all, we know that the Government of Quebec is going to announce an enterprise zone for Montreal East. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, although the Quebec Government's plan is excellent, if there is no coordination with the federal Government's decision to designate Montreal East as Zone 4 and a designated area, and the efforts of the federal and provincial Governments and also the municipal Government—

Mr. Speaker, this kind of program could be announced and made available to businesses in Montreal East, with the possibility of creating up to 6,000 jobs. Subsequently, it could be used as a pilot project. Then we could assess it, and perhaps Montreal East would become what it was before, and get back to normal.

Mr. Speaker, I know that later on, the Hon. Member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) will speak in this debate, and I am delighted to see that in this important matter, the Government has called on one of its big guns, instead of merely hotting out one of its backbenchers. I dare hope that through the intervention of the Minister of Public Works, whom I hold in high esteem, the Federal Government will be able to announce concrete measures before the beginning of the Montreal Economic Summit. The first concrete measure would be to designate the Montreal East area as a "Zone 4". The second would be to make sure, as promised by the federal Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. McInnes), to advance the date in 1986 and to award the contract for repair of the *Algonquin* ship under the Trump Program, to a Montreal firm as early as November 1986. These are promises which the Minister has made here to the employees.

Mr. Speaker, I think also of another commitment which the Minister should confirm, namely, that the Government will ensure that contracts for the building of railway engines are awarded to the Bombardier company in Montreal East.

As to the negotiation with Gabon—yes, Mr. Speaker, I have still two minutes left—Gabon and Mexico, the employee representatives were telling me that we are not hearing any more news concerning this.

But why the "designated area", Mr. Speaker? It is to make sure that, if the Bombardier firm must adapt in order to change its orientation and vocation, the Government may grant it additional moneys to do so.

Mr. Speaker, together with my colleagues the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme), the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet), the Hon. Member for Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone), the Hon. Member for Saint-Léonard—Anjou (Mr. Gagliano) who is not here now and even my

colleague the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre), we have worked for eight months on the Montreal East dossier. I want to thank for their assistance members of the Quebec National Assembly, both from the Parti Québécois and Liberal Party: there was no conflict there. On the other hand, I am sorry to report the only conflicts which existed within the committee were between Progressive Conservative Party Members. First of all, there was one between the Hon. Member for Montreal—Mercier (Mrs. Jacques) and the Hon. Member for Duvernay (Mr. Della Noce) and the Hon. Member for Terrebonne (Mr. Toupin).

Mr. Speaker, I was talking today with two Hon. Members, one Progressive Conservative, and one who is now sitting an Independent. It will be necessary for the survival committee to transform itself into an affirmative development committee for Montreal East, including all interested parties. I can assure you that today all these people were in agreement, and I hope that the Hon. Member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) will be able to announce in a few minutes that there will be concrete action for the development of the eastern sector of Montreal: Designated area, contract for the Versatile-Vickers yards and contracts for Bombardier. Mr. Speaker, the time at my disposal has expired.

**Hon. Roch La Salle (Minister of Public Works):** Mr. Speaker, I am not going to hide the fact that I am interested in the motion put forward by the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart). I am always anxious to congratulate Hon. Members who take an interest in their own areas. At the same time, I would like the same Members to have a more comprehensive view of the help that may be provided to our own areas, our respective constituencies, within the overall picture. Sure enough, it may be easier to condemn the Government of the day. That is a role I played for a long time. I very well remember that, on occasion, solutions are much harder to come by. This is something I remember, and surely the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) knows what I mean.

Mr. Speaker, what is important in my view is that each and every Member of Parliament, whatever his constituency, will try and exercise objectivity as to the interests and responsibilities that were placed upon us by the people's choice at a certain point in time.

Mr. Speaker, it is tempting of course for a Member of Parliament occasionally to reach beyond the limits of decency in the remarks being made here in this House. If one wishes to make a quick little exercise that does not go too far back, one will realize it is not easy for the Government at this point to satisfy the appetites of the entire population. It is also clear, as the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie will agree, that he has just as much as I do, an obligation to support a rationalization of expenditures, a reduction in the deficit that cannot but create for instance much more serious problems than the ones we are facing now.