

*Adjournment Debate*

that the whole deal was to be decided upon today, April 24. That was no reason to keep the Minister from signing the offer inviting the company to build in the Matane area, that it might pursue discussions and avoid undue delays.

But because of the stubbornness of the minister who did not sign the joint offer together with Mr. Ciaccia, although I do hope that the Parliamentary Secretary will come up today with some informations about the situation even if decisions are currently . . . That means that the minister will delay the implementation of that industry since it is only as of tomorrow that he will send the joint offer for grants that both the federal government and the government of Quebec are prepared to make so that the company can build this paper mill in Matane.

Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing in this case exactly the same thing that happened in the Gulf-Ultramar deal where Quebecers have been diddled to the bones if I may say so! We are living the same tragedy as was the case with Domtar in the Eastern Townships where once again Quebecers were conned. They did receive the money but it was their own money which was in the envelope; so they have been taken for a ride one more time.

Mr. Speaker, as I just found out once again, the French-speaking Quebecers have been had because they could not discuss in committee the means to improve the Official Languages Act.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude, and I dare hope that this time, the Parliamentary Secretary, who was prepared earlier to kill this motion which is so important to protect all French-speaking Canadians, will have a very bright answer.

**Mr. Bernard Valcourt (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to answer the question of the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie. When during his ramblings the Hon. Member said that I killed Bill C-203—Well, a conservative Member from New Brunswick, a province run by Premier Richard Hatfield, a man who fought for French-speaking people and Acadians, has no lesson to take from the Liberals—

**Mr. Malépart:** Mr. Hatfield did not do what he should have done.

**Mr. Valcourt:** Mr. Speaker, I do not appreciate such an answer.

We do not like to be reminded that Liberals have been in power for 16 years and that they did not amend the Official Languages Act since 1969. We are prepared to do it. But, to come back to the Matane papermill. The same thing has to be repeated over and over before some people can understand.

The Matane papermill issue consist of a project of an overcalendered papermill with a capacity of 180,000 metric tons a year, and the total cost is estimated at \$327 million, in addition to the \$25 million needed for the infrastructure off site.

We know who the sponsors are. Up to now, there have been many meetings between federal and Quebec government employees to explore the possibility of government funding in order for the project to proceed. In fact, a clear declaration of intent has already been issued.

When you listen to the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart), you would swear that he was with Messrs. Ciaccia and Stevens, the Quebec and federal ministers, when they discussed the Matane paper mill because he says that he gave his word. Now, as far as I know, and the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie may agree with me, a proposed draft agreement is not an agreement. However, to further his own political interests, the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie says that Quebecers are being fooled by this Government, but Quebecers know better because they see what happened with the unemployment rate in Quebec since Septembre 1984. At any rate, when the decision on this matter is made, some factors will have to be taken into consideration.

They can listen because they might learn what will be considered. They will consider of course the social and economic impact of that investment in the Lower St. Lawrence region and the Gaspé Peninsula. But, Mr. Speaker, they will have to take into account as well the representations of the pulp and paper industry which do not favour discretionary funding of such projects, because those who know the market know what it means and what possible impact such funding will have, Mr. Speaker, on the trade negotiations which will begin shortly with our neighbours to the South, the United States of America.

A draft presentation to Cabinet regarding the Matane paper mill is under way and should be submitted shortly so that a final decision can be taken in this regard.

● (1815)

[English]

COMMUNICATIONS—BELL CANADA TELEPHONE BILLS—  
REFUSAL OF CASH PAYMENT

**Mr. Bob Horner (Mississauga North):** Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago I asked the Minister of Communications (Mr. Masse) a question relating to the payment of Bell Canada telephone bills. I asked this question because, with very little warning, Bell Canada unilaterally changed its payment policy. All of a sudden, only cheques or money orders were acceptable tender at Bell Phonecentres in Mississauga. When I asked the Minister for an explanation of this situation, the hon. gentleman responded by informing the House that such matters were within the jurisdiction of the CRTC and that the CRTC was looking into the situation.

Several weeks have since passed. The CRTC is still looking into the situation. For the following reasons, it is my submission that that is not good enough. First and foremost, since