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federation as president emeritus, although he says that he will leave the reins of power entirely to his successor and friend, Fernand D'Aoust, who opposed him for the presidency in 1964. I also have high regard for Mr. D'Aoust and I wish him an equally successful career at the head of an organization that is full of vitality.

I am pleased to wish Mr. Laberge and his wife, who has always supported him so well, all the best.

I am even more pleased that the new QFL headquarters will be in my riding of Saint-Denis, at the corner of Saint-Denis and Crémazie. This will bring me even closer to him. Long live Ti-Louis Laberge!

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** Unfortunately, I must interrupt the hon. member. The hon. member for Edmonton East has the floor.

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[English]

### THE ENVIRONMENT

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Madam Speaker, Dr. James Plambeck of the University of Alberta's Chemistry Department has estimated that Mitsubishi's giant Al-Pac pulp mill on the Athabasca River will produce about 60,500 cubic metres of effluent every day.

Scores of thousands of people downstream from the mill draw their drinking water from that river. Who will guarantee all those thousands that they will suffer no ill effects from swallowing what has been estimated to be an average of a tablespoon of straight mill effluent every day?

As for the Minister of Environment, he will know that the scientific review panel report of the company's revised proposal has been thoroughly discredited as bad science.

Therefore, I call on the minister to exercise his undisputed authority to halt the mill's progress, at least until baseline studies are done on the Athabasca River system and other crucial conditions set in the original federal-provincial review have been met and completed unless he, too, is willing to drink a tablespoon of mill effluent every day.

[Translation]

### QUEBEC GAMES

**Mr. Denis Pronovost (Saint-Maurice):** Madam Speaker, the 26th Quebec Games finals will go down in history for the exceptional involvement of the entire population of the localities of Shawinigan, Grand-Mère and Shawinigan-Sud.

Under the skilfull direction of Mr. Michel Béliveau, president of the organizing committee of the 1991 Quebec Winter Games, at least 4,100 volunteers from the heart of the Saint-Maurice valley worked for 10 days to make this major sporting event a success.

I want to thank in particular the government of Canada, and the hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration, for its outstanding financial support.

My congratulations to all the people of the central part of the Saint-Maurice valley for this great success.

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### THE ECONOMY

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard):** Madam Speaker, today, as a matter of fact this afternoon, the government will be closing down this Parliament while 1.4 million Canadian men and women are out of work and 500,000 Canadians depend on food banks for their daily meals.

In Quebec, Madam Speaker, 5,000 businesses had to file for bankruptcy in 1990, and 14,000 cases of personal bankruptcy were reported. In Montreal, 223,000 people are jobless and the unemployment rate, which rose to 14 per cent, is the highest in the country.

In Quebec City, there are 24,000 people out of work; in Trois-Rivières, 9,000, or 16 per cent of the population; in Sherbrooke, 8,000; in the Chicoutimi-Jonquière area, 8,000 also. In the province, 335,000 people are on welfare and 3,000 others join them every month.

Major job losses are reported, Madam Speaker, at Air Canada, VIA Rail and CP and plant closures were decided by General Motors, Pratt and Whitney and Canadair just to name of few. Forty-one thousand jobs were lost in the manufacturing sector in 1990. That is a disaster!