

Adjournment Debate

But I want the House to understand, I want my colleagues . . . but I see that there is only one Member, and I will not refer to him by name, but I would have liked to see all Government Members from Montreal in the House. I see one Member whose riding is on Montreal island, and I wish him good luck in this summer's Cabinet shuffle. I know he is in the House, he is the chairman of the Quebec caucus. But I would have liked all my colleagues, all the Government Members from the east-end of Montreal to be here since we are talking about the survival of our region.

Mr. Speaker, I want to tell you that if this House does not understand, if the Government does not understand, I, for one, did understand how those workers felt when I met with them. I could read in their eyes the fear of losing their jobs. After meeting with these labour leaders we were painfully aware of the problems which exist in the east-end of Montreal.

Mr. Speaker, before closing because I will cut my remarks short, I want to tell you, that I am ready to read again the motion and to sit down with my colleagues and invite them to say: That, in the opinion of this House— we should take this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I will read again the motion, and I call on all my colleagues on the Government side to join me in saying:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider the advisability of intervening in the matter of the industrial decline of the eastern sector of Montreal by designating the said area (Zone 4), and by granting contracts to Versatile-Vickers, Bombardier, C.S.W. and other endangered industries.

I invite them, Mr. Speaker, to join us in a unanimous vote, to say "yes", we hope, and I ask them to immediately say: "Yes, we want it!"

• (1810)

Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for External Relations): Mr. Speaker—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but the period provided for Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 42(1), the order is dropped from the Order paper.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 66 deemed to have been moved.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS—SIZE OF POLISH CONSULATE IN
ETOBICOKE—LAKESHORE

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Etobicoke—Lakeshore): Mr. Speaker, the issue I want to raise in this adjournment debate stems from a question I asked in this House on April 24. I asked the Minister for External Relations (Mrs. Vézina) whether, in light of current construction, doubling the size of the Polish

consulate located in Etobicoke—Lakeshore, even though no apparent reason exists to justify this increased activity, she could inform the House if the Government of Canada had authorized any increase in the number of Polish government representatives accredited to work at this consulate. The answer was straightforward and simple, to the effect that departmental staff requirement assessments are based on two criteria, namely reciprocity and assessment of needs.

• (1815)

As to the consulate mentioned, the Minister said in reply that a recommendation had recently been made that one Toronto consulate position be transferred to a Montreal consulate. If the Government supporting Members in this House had the opportunity to put supplemental questions, the obvious supplemental question on that day would have been: "Well, if, in fact, there is one less authorized position at the Polish consulate in Toronto, then why has it been necessary to more than double the size of those consular facilities?" I know what the answer is, and I raise this with all the sobriety and seriousness that the situation warrants.

The reason is that in this world Canada does not stand alone, but is subject to international pressures. There are Governments that seek on a daily basis to spy on activities in this country. The Soviet bloc countries, in particular, are actively engaged in espionage activities. The Polish consulate in my riding is a prime example of how this issue comes home.

Let us just reflect on the fact that in this Parliament, legislation has been passed creating the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. That is a separate body that will carry out activities formerly carried out by the RCMP. We also have, of course, the Department of External Affairs with a direct vested interest in these relationships. At least three branches of the federal Government now have responsibility.

My concern and the inquiries I have made to date in my investigation of what is actually going on in terms of Soviet espionage in Canada, conducted directly, and indirectly through those who are representing Soviet bloc countries here as well, leads me to a grave concern that for our part, and the Government of Canada, the divided responsibility in this area may be allowing certain things to happen that should be detected, dealt with and stopped.

Indeed, I am advised by City of Etobicoke officials that the building permit for the doubling of the consular building in the City of Etobicoke, required nothing more than a normal application for a building permit. I am advised locally that the Department of External Affairs was not even involved.

It took a great deal of inquiries to find out how many are currently accredited here to represent the Polish Government. The number is approximately 35, and that refers to diplomatic passports, not the families of diplomats.