

believe that DREE should co-operate as soon as possible with the provinces. Someone said earlier that certain provinces did not have the means to undertake the required studies. There is no doubt that the federal government should contribute to these studies and surveys.

I would want them respected, and the provinces free to set up their own priorities. I feel that nobody knows better than the provinces themselves what their goals and priorities should be. Therefore, the central government must commit itself to that, and the sooner the better, in the present context, while taking into account the unemployment situation and the number of unemployed. I am sure that there is no member of parliament who does not feel any concern for the great number of young people who are growing in this political climate which may eventually take a turn for the worse.

**Mr. Béchar**: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. member for Joliette if he would allow me a question before six o'clock.

**Mr. La Salle**: No. After six o'clock.

**Mr. Béchar**: He said after six o'clock because then he will not be able to answer it.

**Mr. La Salle**: Mr. Speaker, today the hon. member has a golden opportunity of rising and speaking on behalf of his fellow-citizens, a golden opportunity of telling the House that he and his electors are quite happy about the million unemployed in the country. That is not true! No one in the province of Quebec is happy. The minister had the courage to say so, but not the hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

**Mr. Béchar**: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner)**: The hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine on a point of order.

**Mr. Béchar**: Mr. Speaker, I object to the hon. member for Joliette making such cheeky and stupid remarks about me and my electors who are every bit as worthy of respect as his. A while ago, I wanted to ask him whether he feels the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is to blame for—

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner)**: Does the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) accept a question?

[*Translation*]

**Some hon. Members**: It is fear!

**Mr. La Salle**: I have no time to waste trying to reply to the insignificant questions of the hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine.

### *Regional Unemployment*

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner)**: I regret to inform the hon. member for Joliette that his time has expired.

**Mr. McCleave**: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the time of the hon. member who had the floor was taken up by interruptions. He lost about two minutes because of interventions by hon. members opposite, and I think he should have the benefit of those two minutes.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner)**: I must inform the hon. member for Halifax-East Hants (Mr. McCleave) that this was taken into consideration by the Chair.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Claude Tessier (Compton)**: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to take part in this debate, the more so because it will afford me the opportunity to calm down the tempers, something which I feel is necessary at this time. Just the same, I should like to suggest to my friend the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle) that he will probably be satisfied, for I intend to admit later and do admit now that problems exist and that it is really together that we are going to solve them.

Then again, and I mean this as a very friendly suggestion, if the government has a part to play in this, a part which is in constant evolution, so has the opposition. It has to know what and how to ask and, in the near future, when it must stop asking.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it six o'clock?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner)**: Order. It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 8 p.m.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. Tessier**: Mr. Speaker, just before dinner, I merely had the time to calm down the House, and I would now like to deal with the subject immediately.

As a matter of fact, this is an opportunity for me to speak on behalf of non-industrialized Quebec, and its immense rural regions. However, I must admit that as a government member, I am faced with a dilemma. I am faced with a situation that is not good, to say the least, and, on the other hand, with inadequate economic structures, which are common to all non-industrialized areas, with a sparse, aging population, and which are very often deserted by young people, because of the lack of job opportunities, and where industries disappear one after the other, and are very often not replaced. This is the dilemma a government backbencher finds himself in, namely to recognize certain facts and accept that problems do exist. But on the other hand we have to choose the hard course of trying to build in an economic climate where almost everything seems impossible because those who want something