

Regional Development

medication is often the most bitter to swallow. I remember when my mother forced me to gulp down syrup that tasted almost like poison, but I was cured by the next day. That was probably one of the best medications ever. Eating sweets solves nothing! But my colleague may have forgotten that back in 1975, 41 refineries were in operation in Canada. Today, unfortunately, or fortunately for those who have hydro power, fortunately maybe for Mr. Bourassa, there are 28 left out of those 41. There are only 28 refineries left in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, when those refineries closed down, the Progressive Conservatives were not in power. In 1980, the Gulf refinery in Point Tupper was closed; in 1978, the Texaco refinery in Port Credit, Ontario; in 1976, Petro-Canada in Newfoundland; in 1984, Texaco in Edmonton, Alberta. We also had Ultramar in 1983. In Calgary, the Gulf refinery closed down in 1983; in Saint-Boniface, in September 1983 . . . Shell in July 1983. Yet in 1983, the Progressive Conservative Party had not yet won the elections, it was still campaigning. It was trying to set up a team and win the elections.

Mr. Speaker, I would have a lot to say about the Gulf case. I could go on for at least two hours. Let me tell you about the famous survival Committee of East Montreal which my colleague appropriately set up. I attended its meeting several times.

An Hon. Member: Once!

Mr. Della Noce: Twice. My colleague for Montreal—Saint-Marie is wrong once again, Mr. Speaker. He says: Once. But it was indeed twice. What happened then? My colleague has darn good ideas, but he has a big drawback, he always invites convenient people. He never invited anyone else but unions. That workers are losing their jobs is a sad thing. Unions have their way of looking at things, and I respect those ways. And we cannot reflect other cases were 300 jobs, or maybe 200 when the case is over, are lost, or maybe even no jobs will be lost when everything is settled. But anyway, in this refinery, they lost 2,000 jobs. What happened? There were unions, friends, Liberal Members. My colleague the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme) joined us. There was the other one from Shefford (Mr. Lapierre) who came to help the Minister with his coat. That was a nice show on TV. It was all on TV, Mr. Speaker! Great fun! But they forgot one guy, they forgot two guys. They forgot the one who was supposed to buy the Gulf refinery, who was supposed to bring in \$120 million, who promised me and my colleague the Hon. Member for Terrebonne (Mr. Toupin) on that night, on TV, in front of the Chairman of my caucus, the guy who said: Yes, we will provide \$120 million. But no, at the last minute, they failed us. So they were never invited, but they say they have a buyer. Even journalists were in on this and never told the truth. They do not know the truth. My colleague has forgotten why I was the only one from this side and that I believed I was on the right side because nobody else but me held the truth. My colleague forgot to invite the person who was supposed to buy. There was no buyer for Gulf. That is the truth! My colleague

knows it too well. Come on! I know my time has expired, Mr. Speaker.

● (1805)

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I think that throughout the debate we have heard discussed almost everything else but the motion of our colleague the Hon. Member for Montréal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) who moved, and I urge the House to listen attentively to the motion since we will be voting on it at the end of the debate:

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.

That is what we are talking about, Mr. Speaker. That is the issue to which my colleague and friend from Montreal—Sainte-Marie has been devoting himself. He was first chosen by the people of eastern Montreal and he had the absolute confidence of the caucus he represents here, that of Montreal and the province of Quebec. We asked him to organize all those survival committees and he did it, not in a partisan spirit, but in order to save what we consider as one of the most important things: eastern Montreal. What does that area mean to us, Quebecers? I know the member of the New Democratic Party, a newcomer, as my colleague the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) said, does not understand what it represents for us, Quebecers and Montrealers.

I will always remember, and you probably remember it too, Mr. Speaker, the speech that Mr. Marchand delivered in this House when he was a Member and a Minister. He said that we must realize that Quebec is not only a different province, but also that its economic heart is in Montreal. When Montreal does not work, the whole province suffers, because there is, in Quebec, a tendency for the rural population to come to Montreal. When they come to that city, and I say it without malice, they do not settle in the West end. I know that there is, presently, a revival in some industries, but it is mainly noticeable in the Western part of the city. My riding covers part of Montreal East and also some of West Montreal, so I am in a very good position to know what is happening.

When my colleague from Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) is spending all this time and effort on defending the interests of Montreal East, his concern is the thousands of workers who cannot be retrained. Never in all my life, and I say this quite frankly, though it may be a little embarrassing, was I so profoundly moved as when, with my colleagues from Saint-Léonard—Anjou (Mr. Gagliano), Mount Royal (Mrs. Finestone) and Papineau (Mr. Ouellet), I met with all these workers from Montreal East. We saw the despair on the faces of these people when they asked: Are you going to help us? We were born in Montreal East and that is where we belong. Don't try to give us other jobs in West Montreal, don't try to move us south of Montreal. Our lives are here. You have to understand the people of Montreal East. I do, because I live there, but perhaps not as well as my colleague from Montreal—Sainte-Marie who is right in the centre of it.