

that the Quebec Government has figures that point to an under-capacity in the refining industry. I have figures from Statistics Canada that clearly show the underproduction of refineries in Quebec, and the comments made by your Minister of Consumer—and my question to the Prime Minister is, Mr. Speaker: Why did the Prime Minister not get involved personally in the issue, to protect the interests of Quebecers and allow Gaz Métropolitain to purchase the Gulf refinery in Montreal East? Why?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that is a surprising question, to say the least, from the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie. If you allow me, on another occasion—I will remind you that on March 30, the General Secretary of the Quebec Federation of Labour, referring to the shutdown of three industries in East end Montreal had this to say: The QFL also pressured all Liberal MPs from the Montreal area.

**An Hon. Member:** What year was that? What year?

**Mr. Mulroney:** The Secretary General had this to say: We do not understand the silent and passive stance of our Liberal representatives in Ottawa, when Ontario once more stands to come out the big winner in the oil situation. He was referring to you at the time Montreal East was being massacred. For three years you remained silent, and now you have the gall to try and address the issue. Stop that nonsense and blame the Hon. Member for Saint-Maurice. He is responsible for that situation, as the then Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

[English]

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please! Order from both sides of the Chamber, please. The Hon. Member has a supplementary question.

[Translation]

#### CONSUMERS' INTERESTS

**Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the Prime Minister is this: If he does not want the refinery's union leaders—

**Some Hon. Members:** Question!

**Mr. Malépart:** If he does not want the union leaders—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**An Hon. Member:** Question! Question!

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Supplementary question, please!

**Mr. Malépart:** Mr. Speaker, if the Prime Minister does not want the union leaders at the Gulf refinery to go on calling

him a snake, would he be ready to support the statement made by the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs that it is in the interest of consumers to prevent the Gulf refinery shut down? Is the Prime Minister at least ready to admit that?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** It is a matter of credibility with the employees, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie, who seems tremendously interested, might tell the House and the Province and the Metropolitan Montreal area why, if it is true—and he will correct me if I am wrong—why, when Texaco, BP, Esso shut down and 1,100 jobs were lost in Montreal East, he remained silent, not uttering one word.

**Mr. Malépart:** Why are you afraid to meet with the workers?

**Mr. Mulroney:** Explain that now. Explain that. Why did you remain silent for four years? This is all we want to know, because if you are sincerely taking the workers' interests at heart, you should have had the courage to rise during those four years, rather than remain silent. Explain to Montrealers why you remained silent for four years!

#### OIL REFINING CAPACITY IN QUEBEC—QUEBEC GOVERNMENT STATISTICS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Prime Minister.

This morning, the Quebec Department of Energy announced that Quebec's oil refining capacity showed a shortfall of 27,000 barrels per day.

**An Hon. Member:** Not true!

**Mr. Nystrom:** Mr. Speaker, my question is as follows: Does the Prime Minister agree with the Quebec Government's figures?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I admit that opinions vary on this particular point. That is why the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, acting through the appropriate federal commission, intends to publish the requisite documentation at the appropriate time.

The fact is—and since the House is concerned, and rightly so, about the situation in Quebec, I imagine the New Democratic Member will want to congratulate the Government on these statistics—the fact is that, thanks to the creation of 137,000 new jobs, compared to 37,000 in 55 months, the present Government is now creating jobs in Quebec at thirteen times the rate of the previous Government. And that is very good news for the people of Quebec.