

In conclusion, I will say that I am somewhat surprised to see the Hon. Member from the New Democratic Party realize all of a sudden, at the last second, at the 23-rd hour, that he has an interest for Quebec. The Hon. Member from Ontario who spoke before me cannot deceive us, Mr. Speaker. His new-found interest in this issue does not suit the legitimate aspirations which were so well represented by the efforts of this committee for the survival of Montreal East under the able leadership of my colleague for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart), who is a real advocate and a true representative of the workers from Montreal East. I trust much more the Hon. member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie than—

● (1750)

[English]

—than late-coming members of the New Democratic Party from Ontario.

[Translation]

Mr. Vincent Della Noce (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport) and Minister of State (Multiculturalism)): Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to talk about the motion of my colleague from Montreal—Sainte-Marie, but first of all, I must make a remark that I have not had an opportunity to make earlier. I heard the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet). I have heard the reply made by the Hon. Member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle), our Minister of Public Works. I have also heard the remarks made by my colleague the Hon. Member for Papineau, and although I must confess that his ending was very good he does not nearly measure up to our Minister of Public Works, because he started with a very cheap shot by directing that kind of innuendo to one of my colleagues who might have had a small personal experience which does not concern the House at all and of which they should like to make a sort of scandal.

That is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, because the issue which was raised today is that of Montreal East. I am quite willing to deal with the situation in Montreal East generally, and especially with a problem which I know very well, that of the refineries in Montreal East, including the Gulf refinery.

Mr. Speaker, I have been involved for several years in the Montreal East area. I have organized groups too, just as my colleague the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie has, and that does not go back only to 1984, but as far as 20 years ago. I have also witnessed the closing of several refineries in Montreal East. There have been 13 refineries closed in Canada. The Gulf refinery, unfortunately, was the 13th.

● (1800)

The Texaco refinery closed in February 1983. The BP refinery closed in June 1983. The Esso refinery closed in October 1983. The Gulf refinery closed very recently, and nobody is talking about that anymore. I wonder where was the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet) who is blaming us for being the champions of inaction. Where was his Party in 1983? Was not his Party in power while 12 refineries were

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being closed in Canada? Where was the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) when the last refinery, the Texaco one, closed in 1983 and we asked for his help? He even refused to come and see us. Where was the Hon. Member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme)? Where was the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet)? I suppose he was playing golf, because I had seen him playing golf at the time. He does not hit with his fists, he prefers to hit balls, that is his choice and I respect that.

But while the Texaco workers were losing their jobs, the Party which was in power before us was totally inactive and the Hon. Member for Montreal—Sainte-Marie was not silent: he was mute, it was absolutely impossible to have him speak out. Yet, today, he speaks out and he is worse than Mr. Pavarotti: His tenor voice can constantly be heard all over Montreal East.

Mr. Speaker, there was recently a television program called *Le Point* originating in Montreal. There was there one of their colleagues or former colleagues whom they have lost as we did, but this colleague preferred to resign: I mean Mr. Jean Chrétien, the former Liberal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Well, on that program entitled *Le Point* run by the French network of CBC, Mr. Chrétien clearly acknowledged that the closure could be anticipated several years earlier. He acknowledged that on the CBC television program *Le Point*, which has to be one of the serious programs of the French network of CBC.

Also in Montreal East, Mr. Speaker, we had those famous grants offered by the Government to convert heating systems into electrical or gas heating systems. I was one of the victims of that advertising campaign. I got \$1500 to remove my oil system and get connected to the famous James Bay network. So I went for James Bay, without thinking that some day as a result of that a friend of mine, a citizen of Duvernay, would lose his job because the Gulf Company would close down. The Liberal Government had not warned us about that aspect of our grants. At the time, they also said: save energy.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, I was a mechanic for 20 years. They told us: The famous 450 cubic inch gaz guzzlers are no good anymore, they are too big, we have to buy four cylinders. Instead of getting six miles per gallon, you will be doing 40 miles per gallon, and we did. There was a tremendous advertising impact. We were told: Let us no longer depend on the Arabs for our heating, let us get plugged on the James Bay project, one of the largest in the world. And so we did. Now today, Mr. Speaker, we have a declining market, we have a market where offer and demand are lower than they used to be, and that is the price we have to pay for that kind of things. In English, they say: "You can't have it both ways". Well, Mr. Speaker, this is the price we have to pay for our industry. They also say that in this respect, we need strong medicine and not superficial medication, and it is well-known that strong