

*Supply*

I also understand very much that the Liberals are very concerned about the leadership race. The Liberals are extremely concerned because they see they are going down in the polls, the Conservatives are coming up, and the NDP are disappearing off the map. It is going to be a race between the two old-line parties of Canada in the next election.

• (1050)

I understand their concern because the quality of the candidates the Progressive Conservatives are putting forward is wonderful. They are exemplary and will be fine candidates no matter which one becomes the Prime Minister of this country and the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada. I have great faith in all of them. They are wonderful candidates and they will all make great Prime Ministers. I will be participating quite actively in this leadership convention.

My friend from Willowdale talked very eloquently about the importance of high-tech jobs in this country. He spoke of the importance of creating an opportunity for young people to obtain high-tech jobs and maintain them and so on.

Then my friend from Winnipeg got up and said: "Let us have a make-work project, throw money at municipalities for make-work projects but cancel the construction of the helicopters". He was talking about 30,000 jobs which the Liberal make-work projects would create. The helicopter purchase and construction in Canada will create 43,000 person-years of work. It is also going to provide our Armed Forces with a helicopter that can fly in very inclement weather when we must have them for search and rescue. Our country has the largest coastline in the world which must be covered to protect our fishermen and those who sail the seas. They need the best equipment.

The Liberals' plan is to take 35-year old helicopters and refurbish them for a five or ten-year period. Then they are going to have to do something with their 40-year old helicopters. This government is not prepared to put our Armed Forces, our service people in that kind of equipment. We are going to provide them with the best equipment.

The opposition called them sub hunters and that kind of thing. That is ridiculous. They are going to have state of the art equipment. By the way, this will be manufac-

ured in Canada by Canadians. It will be assembled in Canada by Canadians. I want my friend to go down to Halifax and tell the aeronautical workers in Halifax that he is going to cancel that contract because they are going to be putting it together there. I know he does not care about that because it is a Tory stronghold so he can write that area off. I understand how the Liberals operate. I understand that is not a priority area for them. There are contracts being let across this country for this project. They do not say this contract for the helicopters is over a 13-year period. They fail to mention that the money is being spent over 13 years.

How can they take money and throw it at make-work projects, part-time jobs and not high-tech jobs? That is exactly what the Liberals are advocating. They are saying: "Take this money from the high-tech business and throw it at make-work projects". That is exactly what was proposed by those two speakers today.

My hon. friend from Willowdale stood up today and talked about this government's high interest and high dollar policies, and I have to give him full marks because he did it with a straight face. As he sat here in the House between 1980 and 1984 I saw him squirm a lot during that period of time.

The hon. member talked about this government's high interest and high dollar policies. I heard him talk about this and I heard him very clearly today. He was in the House when the Liberals raised interest rates to 23 per cent and when inflation was at 13 per cent. He has the gall to stand up in the House and claim the Progressive Conservative Party, the government and the Prime Minister, is a high interest rate, high dollar organization.

• (1055)

Where is our dollar now? Our dollar is at around 79 cents today. Where are our interest rates? We have the lowest interest rates in 30 years. Where is inflation? We have the lowest inflation in 20 or 30 years. Where are our mortgage rates? They are as low as we have seen them in 35 years.

That speaks volumes of the criticism the hon. member has put forward. He is just totally off base when he makes those accusations.

The next thing he proposes are national standards and testing. That is an interesting proposal. It is something that we have been looking at, especially in the field of