

Borrowing Authority

see it today. He has been consistently negative about this Budget.

I would like to ask the Hon. Member, since he is criticizing our message, why, as a Quebecer, he did not rise in the House when we debated the plan to set up an international banking centre in Montreal? I was sitting on the same committee as the Hon. Member, and I did not see him intervene in any significant way to urge that an international banking centre be established in Montreal. His silence was heard across the country. Perhaps his political ambition extends beyond the job of lieutenant to the present Leader of the Liberal Party. Who knows, Madam Speaker.

I also would like to know why the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides was so careful to say nothing about the F-18, a one-billion-dollar contract that is to be administered in the province of Quebec. We never got a clear and straightforward statement from him on this question.

● (1530)

And since he is such a good critic of our Budget, I would also like to ask him why, except when he had some specific question in mind, he never referred to our policy to provide, on a long-term basis, for a viable shipbuilding industry in the province of Quebec.

Notwithstanding a number of problems which many experts thought it would be impossible to resolve, our Government has been able to revive the shipbuilding industry in the province of Quebec and I am referring to the shipyards of Versatile Vickers, those in Sorel and those in my own riding in Lauzon, the former Davie shipyards now being managed by Marine Industries. Why did we never hear the Hon. Member from Laval-des-Rapides on a project that is having an economic impact worth over one billion dollars on the three shipyards I referred to?

I would have liked to have heard the Hon. Member comment on the appropriateness of the Government's decision to award a \$135 billion contract to Marine Industries for the construction of a second ferry, to award two contracts for refitting some of our destroyers and to award a \$196 billion contract to Lauzon for building one and a half frigates, which adds up to \$471 billion in federal contracts for Quebec. I would have liked to have heard him voice his support for the two additional \$70-billion contracts for repairs to two other Canadian Navy ships. I would have liked to have heard him give his opinion also on the recent financial implication, to the tune of \$35 million, of the Canadian Government, the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion, to allow for the transaction between Marine Industries and the Lévis shipyards. I would also have liked to have heard his comments on the approval by the Canadian Government of a \$50-million dollar investment, \$30 million for the development of additional capital investments and \$20 million for specialization. Also, \$50 million were given by the Quebec Government to modernize the three shipyards I just mentioned.

I would also have liked to have heard him express concern for the finalization of the transaction between Marine Industries and the Government of Canada and the former

Versatile shipyards, for which the two governments, Quebec and Ottawa, decided to guarantee \$50 million each with respect to the deficit over the next two years.

And, finally, I would have liked him to get involved on the awarding of another \$196-million contract for an additional frigate and a half to the Sorel yards, for a grand total of \$1.22 billion. But the senior Liberal spokesman for the Province of Quebec never showed any concern for those matters.

I would also have liked the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides (Mr. Garneau) to share his views with us, since he can hardly express the views of his party, because he would have had one opinion, that of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy) who is against bilateral talks with the United States. He would also have had another opinion, that of the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount (Mr. Johnston), who is for bilateral talks with the Americans, while the critic, who sits to the right of the Leader of the Liberal Party, has not yet committed himself on a matter of such significance for this country and for the Province of Quebec. I say for this country because we export \$95 billion worth of goods to the United States, Madam Speaker. This accounts for 30 per cent of our jobs. And the talks are aimed, first at keeping that market, and second at developing it so that we can sell more Canadian goods and services to those 240 million Americans. We have not heard him. The Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides has remained silent on that matter.

I will hurry. I would have liked to have heard him, Madam Speaker, on the lumber issue. He remained silent.

I would have liked to have heard him about Bill C-22, which deals with the drug industry and the location in Montreal of high-technology industries, industries that create plenty of jobs, industries that, since the announcement of our Bill, have decided to invest \$700 million in the City of Montreal, Madam Speaker. Fifty per cent of the pharmaceutical companies' new investments will be in the City of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, but we never heard anything from the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides, who is currently dabbling at launching the Quebec federal organization for the next election. He would do better to make representations here in this House and do his share to improve the lot of Canadians.

Madam Speaker, I will also add a few comments on the position taken by the Leader of the Opposition and perhaps even on his statements. It is not by accident that I began with the Hon. Member for Laval-des-Rapides. The Leader of the Opposition has tried to voice a few comments on the budget speech and our borrowing needs. I should say to the Liberal Leader that before taking position on a budget of so many billions, that is \$122 billion, and before giving us some advice on the matter, I wonder if it would not be advisable for him to look after the \$5 million deficit which his party is unable to pay back week after week, month after month. I think that would be more important. And when the Liberal Leader is telling us that we are overburdening Canadian taxpayers, he should realize he is living in a democratic system and ask