

However, the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier would like to have a pan-Canadian water treatment company in addition to the municipal authorities and the *Société québécoise d'assainissement des eaux*. Mr. Speaker, I think we already have more than enough overlap and that Canadian municipalities also have the authority to tax their residents. When they want to do construction, build an arena or repair sewer or water mains, every Canadian municipality has that authority. The Quebec government can provide assistance, and I imagine the same is true in other provinces.

So why are the Liberals again tabling a motion to get the federal government to spend even more money, a government that already has far more debt than the provinces or the municipalities? Why should we get the federal government deeper into debt and make it harder for this government to do what it already does, instead of letting the municipalities and provincial governments take care of this?

A while ago, the member for Ottawa—Vanier shocked us by saying we should be crying because in Ottawa, imagine, in Ottawa, our nation's capital there are still wooden sewer pipes. I think we could find the same in many Canadian towns. However, discovering a problem is very different from wanting to solve it.

If there are still sewer pipes made of wood in Ottawa, it does not concern the federal government in any way. Although, for this city, it is somewhat of a habit to call upon the federal government. As you know, Mr. Speaker, Ottawa is privileged compared to the average Canadian city. I know the member for Ottawa—Vanier will not be pleased when hearing this but Ottawa's infrastructure is paid in part by Canadian taxpayers, through the National Capital Commission which invests millions and millions of dollars in embellishing and improving the city. In Shawinigan, there is no national capital commission for Shawinigan to bolster the city's budget by picking the pockets of Canadian taxpayers.

That's why I think the member for Ottawa—Vanier should find another reason for us to cry about Ottawa's fate because it is the only city in Canada which can enjoy a face-lift paid for by all Canadians. In fact, I have nothing against that. Ottawa is our national capital and it is probably an essential part of the federal government's

role to take on some of the capital's responsibilities. We should however stay within reasonable limits. There are citizens here in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, there are Ottawa taxpayers and they must bear their share of the burden.

If some sewer pipes burst this evening in Ottawa, the city must look into it and pay for the necessary repairs out of its own municipal budget. To use the Canadian taxpayers' money for such a purpose is next to indecent.

The member for Ottawa—Vanier brought up another very important subject; the drinking of bottled waters of all sorts in Canada. He mentioned a total of \$80 million, and he is right. But you should compare that with the situation in Scandinavian countries—Sweden, Finland and Norway—where the same phenomenon exists, Mr. Speaker.

The truth is that, according to very precise studies, the quality of bottled water in Canada is no better than the quality of municipal tap water. People don't believe that, but this is what studies show. Without exception, studies done by provincial governments show that tap water in most Canadian cities is of the same quality as bottled water, and in some instances even better.

So when he says that because Canadians spend \$80 million on bottled water we should commit billions of dollars of the taxpayers' money to solve that problem, I say it is psychological more than anything else.

I would go even further, Mr. Speaker. Canadian lakes have waters of excellent quality. We have people who specialize in bottling water of good quality, but despite that Canadians prefer water imported from France like Perrier or Evian. They are the two best sellers in Canada, not Monclair or any other Canadian water. Canadians, when they want to drink water, go for imported water when we have huge reserves of high quality drinking water.

In my opinion, that is a false problem that the hon. member for Ottawa—Vanier wants to raise with us. It is probably the big habit of the Liberal Party of Canada to seek to abolish all municipal and provincial governments and to bring all powers to the federal government, as Mr. Clyde Wells would have liked at a certain point, that is a unitary state where Ottawa would take care of everything.