

The Budget—Mr. Layton

reduced inflation rate which is staying close to 4 per cent. We have a much more stable economy and considerably increased confidence in ourselves and our country.

The Leader of the Official Opposition has argued that we have increased personal income tax by 68 per cent since we took office. Revenues are up mainly because of strong economic growth and job creation. Yes, there have been some tax increases because this Government has done what the Liberals have never done. It has taken on the fiscal mess that was left. Over 80 per cent of our deficit cutting actions are due to expenditure reductions. If we had allowed spending to increase at the annual rate of 20 per cent, which it did when the Leader of the Opposition was Finance Minister, we would have had to double this year's tax levels just to keep the deficit from increasing.

The method of the present Leader of the Opposition of calculating tax increases is to compare revenue levels in one year to revenue levels in another. If we apply this method to his record, we find that personal taxes increased by 76 per cent over the four-year period when the Leader of the Opposition was Finance Minister. If we had increased 1984 personal tax levels by that same amount, the average Canadian family would be paying an extra \$1,000 in taxes this year.

The impacts of which I have spoken are also noticeable in my riding of Lachine, soon to become Lachine—Lac St. Louis with redistribution adding Lachine East back into the riding boundaries. This is a most practical arrangement as the four major Lakeshore communities west of Montreal, namely, Beaconsfield, Pointe Claire, Dorval, and Lachine, will be united as a single constituency with strong representation of our two linguistic communities and many of our ethnic minorities.

Economic recovery is evident in Lachine, a community which has been found by many Montrealers to be the most attractive place in which to live and to raise families. As a result, housing developments are booming in all sectors. Renovations and property development are being matched by commercial activity. Our towns are well administered and will continue to be attractive for investment.

One topic of specific concern to our community is the Dorval Airport. My colleagues will remember that not so many months ago a central issue for Montreal was how to serve the public with its international airports at Dorval and Mirabel. It was only after a period of considerable uncertainty and following extensive discussions, in which I was happy to represent the interests of Montrealers, that the Government developed and announced a policy some 15 months ago ensuring the future of Dorval Airport and the preservation of Mirabel for international and air cargo operations as they develop in the future.

In the last few weeks the Government has appointed an advisory council, which will be headed by Arthur Earle, a well known executive and past President of the Montreal Board of Trade, to study how the local community can take more and

more control of the airport services which will be available to the public in Montreal. We are moving in the right direction.

As a point of interest, between 1981 and 1984, \$15 million was invested in Dorval Airport. Since 1984, the capital investment has been \$59 million. In the next few years it will be even greater.

The federal Government sold unused Dorval Airport land located on Sources Boulevard to the Cities of Pointe Claire and Dorval thereby creating the new Sources Industrial Park. Many new jobs will be created once this land is developed, one of the last high-tech development areas to the west of Montreal.

Dorval Municipal Golf Course, which has served for 40 years as a green space and buffer zone between the homes of Dorval and the airport operation, was threatened with closure, but this decision was reversed recently by the Government, thereby protecting the green space but also allowing for a cargo centre to be developed producing many new jobs.

The Department of Regional Industrial Expansion held a ceremony in Halifax recently called Canada Awards for Business Excellence. The two best companies in Quebec were from the riding of Lachine, namely, Production Sysper Inc. and Noranda Research. We are very proud of our high-tech facilities in the west of Montreal.

I have been privileged to visit a number of the plants, the two which I most recently visited being Pilon and DKL, both of which are competing and winning in the U.S. market in high-tech. The Department of Regional Industrial Expansion has helped finance over 35 firms since 1984 in the expansion of their facilities and produced over 1,750 jobs.

• (1730)

Since September 4, 1984, over \$300 million worth of products and services have been purchased by the Department of Supply and Services from companies in the Lachine riding. This is an increase of 18 per cent over the previous three-year period, which is not bad considering that the Conservative Government has reduced the deficit growth rate.

There has been a major upgrading of the traffic facilities around Dorval, including the Dorval traffic circle. My colleagues from across the country may not realize that the West Island and Lachine are a major hub for the metropolitan area of Montreal because transport, whether by road, rail or air, comes and goes from my riding.

My speech this afternoon would not be complete if I did not briefly refer to Bill C-22 which proposed amendments to the Patent Act regarding pharmaceuticals. The majority of pharmaceutical companies in Quebec are located in the West Island region of Montreal. The benefits to our community now that Bill C-22 has been accepted will be substantial. Many of the 1,300 new jobs to be created in the Montreal area will be in my riding.