

parliamentary business for one month, we could have expected something new. We thought the Government would take this opportunity to make a fresh start and come in with new ideas and new ways of doing things. Above all, Canadians were expecting some leadership from this Government. Unfortunately, Canadians who were counting on seeing some original ideas in the Speech from the Throne and some new and concrete solutions to the real problems Canada is facing today, all these people were terribly disappointed, because this Speech from the Throne is the very essence of platitude. We have been presented with a document that lacks any imagination whatsoever. It reflects the image of a Government that has exhausted its energy after barely two years in power.

This Government is already forced to rehash the promises made during the last election campaign and in its first Speech from the Throne. In this respect, the remarks of the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Côté) were enlightening indeed. We would have expected this new Minister to unveil—as tradition would have it when a Minister takes the floor in the throne speech debate—a slew of fresh propositions from his department. No such luck. In fact the Minister failed to announce anything new and nobody would have been any worse off had he simply skipped his speech altogether. In my opinion, the silence of the Minister about the secret dealings between his department, certain officials, certain political figures and the representatives of the shipyards is of great concern to the shipyard workers.

I do not understand how the Minister, who is well aware of the situation, coming as he does from the Quebec area where a major shipyard is facing a financial crisis, did not take this opportunity today in his remarks to enlighten us, to indicate whether it is true that his predecessor had asked the naval authorities to close down a number of shipyards; whether it is true that his Government is presently negotiating with the owners of various shipyards in Canada for the purpose of restructuring them, to convince a number of naval concerns to shut down their operation, because the reality now is this: under the Liberal Government, all shipyards in Canada had orders to fill. Since this Conservative Government came to power, all shipyards have been forced to lay off employees. It is clearly because of this Conservative Government's failure to act that the Vickers shipyard in Montreal is seriously jeopardized.

And now we are told that the people in Sorel and Lauzon will have to get together to rationalize their operations and probably elect to close either one of these shipyards. Well, the this situation, which I find regrettable, because in Quebec we want, not only one shipyard but three of them obtain their fair share of Canadian Government contracts, because there are quite competent specialized workers both in Sorel and Lauzon as well as in Montreal, people who have done this type of work for many years and want to continue to earn a decent living.

### *The Address—Mr. Ouellet*

I am somewhat disappointed that the Government apparently wants to keep quiet about these two major priorities which it has submitted to the population, claiming that the huge federal deficit, a national disgrace according to these ladies and gentlemen of the Conservative Party, would come down. Well, what is happening, really? The deficit is not coming down. If I may, I should like to quote from an article published in the *Ottawa Citizen*:

• (1530)

[English]

Some of my colleagues are not too happy that I want to refer to some remarks made in a newspaper recently. When we speak in the House of Commons people could say that we are partisan and obviously do not convey the true perspective. I would like to quote from an article in *The Ottawa Citizen* which is indeed absolutely non-partisan and objective. Mr. McGillivray said the following:

Michael Wilson won't be glad to hear this but he has just become Canada's all-time King of Deficits.

**Mr. McDermid:** Who wrote that?

**Mr. Ouellet:** Don McGillivray, a veteran journalist for *Southam News* who has long experience and cannot be accused of partisan politics. His article continues:

As finance minister, he has added more to the national debt than any of his predecessors.

On Sept. 17, Wilson will have been in charge of Canada's finances for two years. And has already presided over budget deficits totalling \$65 billion.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that this Government, after asking Canadians to support its plan to clean up our public finances and reduce the deficit, has done the exact opposite. And it is abundantly clear that the first prize for deficits in this country goes to the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson).

This Government got elected by promising jobs, jobs, jobs. You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that during the election campaign, the present Prime Minister said: We have only three priorities: jobs, jobs, jobs.

[English]

Again the Government has failed in its objective. Again it is clear that the Government is trying to portray a situation which is not accurate.

I would like to quote from an article written in the *Toronto Star* by David Crane, a writer on political and economic affairs. He said:

The latest unemployment figures suggest that luck has run out for Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and his cabinet colleagues. They can no longer count on continued recovery from the 1981-82 recession to fulfil their campaign promises of "jobs, jobs, jobs".

Now they will have to come up with new approaches of their own if further progress is to be made in the fight against unemployment.