

Government Orders

Do we really need a bill to send a signal to various parts of the Government of Canada that we want to control expenditures? This bill shows Canadians once again that this government does not have a legislative agenda.

When there are so many unemployed people in this nation and the government puts forward a piece of legislation that is nothing more than smoke and mirrors, then we know that its creative process has really dwindled to a state where I am sure most Canadians would find it frightening.

We should be debating in this House today ways in which we can put people back to work.

• (1210)

The government repeatedly asks us where are the ideas from this side of the House?

The hon. member for Gander—Grand Falls, whom we just listened to, has hit the nail on the head.

The people of this country are fed up with the tax designs that exist in this country. They are absolutely frustrated with the fact that politicians at all levels of government are not listening to the level of frustration that they feel toward the tax designs, especially the personal and corporate designs.

The member for Gander—Grand Falls has just given a beautiful illustration how the tax preferences, given through the tax act, really show that the basic tax act of this country is unfair.

This is so important in relation to job creation that we had better do something about it quickly. If we are going to be a competitive nation, if we are going to create more jobs in this country, if we are going to expand this economy—and that is the only way we are going to create the jobs—then we are going to have to create better products and better services at more competitive prices.

This government possesses one instrument that can effect a change in the productivity of this country. It is the tax act. Right now, the average men and women of this country feel the tax act is treating them unfairly. We know it is treating them unfairly. They want us to address this problem with a sense of urgency.

We are very close to a tax revolt in this country. We have situations in the municipalities of this country

where people cannot pay their municipal taxes and municipalities are frightened. What are they going to do? They do not have the revenue. Do they want to take businesses out of business and create more unemployment?

The Government of Canada is not listening to the fact that the tax designs that exist in this country are not working. This is why we have a problem in terms of productivity.

If people are to produce a better product at a better price, they have to be treated fairly and this can begin with the tax designs. Bring fairness back into the tax system. Bring simplicity back into the system.

Last year, 80 per cent of the returns that were filed in this country were filled with errors. Consider the inefficiency that exists in the tax system of this country.

We have a situation right now, and the member for Gander—Grand Falls referred to it in his speech, where rules and regulations, and exceptions, and exceptions to exceptions right now are causing disunity in the country. It is wreaking havoc with the entrepreneurial spirit in this country and that is the spirit that we as a nation depend on to create the jobs.

What are we doing to that spirit? We are ignoring it.

When we have a crisis like this on our hands, we cannot ignore the voice of the entrepreneurial spirit in this country. It is saying: "Fix the tax act. On the personal side, fix it; on the corporate side, simplify it, clean it up, bring us some fairness".

If we did that we would have a motivated work force in this country which would create a better quality product at a better price, which ultimately expands the GNP of this country.

More people would be employed which would mean less draw on the unemployment insurance fund and less draw on the welfare fund.

When interest is calculated on \$30 billion worth of disbursements just on UI and welfare, in 18 months we would not have a deficit.

The focus of this government is all wrong. It has a one-track mind. It has absolutely no creativity and it is cut, cut, cut. Now it comes in with this deathbed conversion bill, control on expenditures.