

Government Orders

This government is bankrupt of any idea of what to do with this once great nation. It has taken a nation of incredible promise, a nation that is extremely diverse but was extremely tolerant and turned it into a nation where nobody feels secure that they have any future here any more.

It has turned it into a country where anglophones are battling francophones, whites discriminating against blacks. It has turned it into a country where it has pitted region against region against region. We have race riots in Toronto and in my hometown, Dartmouth and Halifax. We have economic conditions leading young black youth to stop trusting that the system will get any better and who are taking things into their own hands.

• (2150)

We have had outbreaks of racism in western Canada against the Sikh community. We have had Canadians from coast to coast to coast who have lost that sense of Canadianism and have started to question whether or not there is even any hope for this country. That is only after a few years of this government's bankrupt direction.

In conclusion, I wish that we could apply this bill to the Conservative government. I talked about reorganization and meetings of creditors. I wish we could apply this bill to this government, because I think if we could the Canadian public would serve notice. They would give it its 10 day notice just like banks do when they appoint a receiver. They would appoint a receiver against this government and that receiver would be the Chief Electoral Officer of this country.

There would be a vote in this country by the shareholders, the stakeholders, Canadians from coast to coast to coast. They would come up with a reorganization plan. In that reorganization plan, the first plank would be that they would get rid of the board of directors which is the cabinet, and they would send the CEO south, and that is the Prime Minister of Canada.

Maybe if we had the opportunity to do with this government what businesses can now do when they find themselves in times of turmoil, we would have some future.

Canadians will never forgive this government for what it has done to this great nation over the last number of years. Perhaps the final and the most telling testament to

the greatness of this nation is that yes, this nation will survive even eight years of Tory mismanagement.

Finally, I want to give a quote because I think this quote suits this government perfectly. It is a statement about how I and every Canadian feels after this government has driven this economy straight into the cellar. It is a quote from, of all people, Trotsky: "You are pitiful, isolated individuals. You are the bankrupts. Your role is played out. Go where you belong from now on, into the dustbin of history".

I can assure you that the next time Canadians have an opportunity to judge this government, they will remember that quote and this government will be destined to the ash pile of history.

Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, I looked on with great interest as we have gone through a perilous journey with Bill C-22, the Bankruptcy Act and the insolvency act as presented by this government.

One gentleman asks if I would support this bill. Unlike my Liberal colleague, I would not support this bill. Fundamentally it is flawed, and I would not support it for the same reason I would not support the referendum. I thought that it was fundamentally flawed. Something is flawed when it does not do what it is supposed to do. If it does not give wage protection to workers then it is not worth being supported.

Just to respond specifically to the question on the other side, a bad bill is a bad bill is a bad bill.

Let me give a bit of history on this Bankruptcy Act and the insolvency act. It is very important. This goes back to 1949. The last time we dealt with bankruptcy in a substantial manner was 1949. As far back as 1970 there was a study committee. The report coming from the study committee said that the 1949 act essentially reflected the 1949 situation. It meant that the moneys that workers could get were expressed in 1949 dollars. We are looking at very little money.

What we are looking at here with this proposed law is a bill which is unbalanced. To give the minister his credit, as originally presented to us I believe that was a balanced bill. It did what it said it was going to do. There were the workers' protection funds and there were a number of articles dealing with reorganization to make bankruptcy more responsible and easier to go into and easier to avoid in many instances.