

get on his toes and deal with the banks so that we can avoid this kind of rip-off.

We are trying in this House and in the Agriculture Committee to bring in a piece of legislation that will give farmers of Canada who are up against it some relief. At the same time, the Minister of Finance merely pays lip service to the real issues. I have written to the Minister but I have not received an acknowledgement. I challenge him to deal with this issue. It not only destroys the integrity of the banking system, but destroys the ability of farmers to go into a bank with any degree of confidence without getting ripped off.

Our Party has advanced a ten-point agricultural program that would assist in some small measure. It is by no means total. We have made the following recommendations and suggestions. There needs to be some relief in terms of the ability of farmers to bail themselves out of high interest rate mortgages. We recommend the use of the agri-bond system.

Sales tax on farm fuels and natural gas used in the production of food should be removed. Initial grain prices should remain at the same level as last year. Cash advances on farm-stored grain should be doubled. Changes should be made to the Western Grain Stabilization Act and the Agricultural Stabilization Act. We are recommending a voluntary national incomes stabilization program for the red meat sector. We recommend changes to Section 31 of the Income Tax Act so that those farmers who have to supplement their income off the farm will be treated in a fair and equitable manner.

These are some of the suggestions we have advanced. They will by no means resolve all the problems in the agricultural industry, but they should be considered by this Government. I present them for the consideration of the Government, if not in the course of the next few weeks, at least when, hopefully, drafting the new Speech from the Throne which will start a new session of Parliament soon.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, as usual we have heard a refreshing speech from the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski). He pointed out three areas of concern to him: shall business, energy and agriculture. The Hon. Member said that the budget was a disaster for small business, that it did not do enough and did not go far enough.

I received in the mail today the May-June issue of "Impact" from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. It states "Federal budget will strengthen economic recovery: Chamber". "Canadian Chamber reacts favourably to recent federal budget". These are just the headlines. "Business was the big winner". "Box Score: The Canadian Chamber and the April 19 federal budget". Under that heading it lists 30 ideas from the Chamber: 16 wins, 8 partial wins and six losses. I was concerned when I looked at the losses, but I found that they were pretty minor issues.

Among the 30 ideas are the issues raised by the Hon. Member for Vegreville.

At the beginning of his speech, the Hon. Member said the budget does not do enough for productivity. Point three states in part that "The Chamber recommended ... significant

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strides in productivity." The April 19 budget "provided tangible responses". The Chamber recommended "steps to be taken to increase business and consumer confidence". The April 19 budget was "tuned to this objective." It was rated "Win". We find these very powerful statements in this pamphlet. At the end it states, and I quote:

The Chamber has contended that the success Canada will have in attaining economic growth will, to a large extent, rest on the health of our small-business sector since small business employs a large number of Canadians and is responsible for a significant share of new-job creation. With this in mind, it applauded the Minister for recognizing the important role of the small business sector by introducing a number of special tax and other measures that may help to alleviate certain elements of the difficult financial situation faced by small business.

That is an endorsement from the Chamber of Commerce representing thousands of small businesses. There are similar endorsements from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. They rank this budget as a "win". The Hon. Member says we do not do anything for small business. I wonder whether he has been reading his mail.

Mr. Mazankowski: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has seized on an opportunity to exaggerate. I did not say the budget was a disaster for small business. He is fabricating words. I said it did not do enough to assist the small business sector.

As far as the Chamber of Commerce is concerned, I think they would be judging their comments on the basis of the previous two budgets. Compared to the last two, this one is a winner because the other two were absolute disasters.

Notwithstanding what the Hon. Member may say about the support which the Chamber of Commerce is giving to the budget, I would rather look at the level of support that is emanating from the people of Canada with respect to the policies of this Government. We had a good test in Brandon the other day. Only 17 per cent of the people in Brandon approved of the Government's record, approved of its budget, approved of the way the Government is handling the economic and political affairs of the country. I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that that is the better test. Even in the Gallup poll, which takes into account the heavy proportion of support that the Liberal Party still continues to enjoy in the Province of Quebec, the Government can only eke out about a 27 per cent or 29 per cent level of support across the country. I believe that that is the real test.

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The fact of the matter is that others have said the same things as the report by Drache, Goldstein and Company, which said:

The "benefits" for small business, in sum, look like addenda to plans to stimulate big business, a mere afterthought which does not address the real problems of small businesses.

Mr. Fisher: Mr. Speaker, supplementary to what the Hon. Member has just said, I believe that Arthur Drache is the same lawyer who sat in the Tory lobby during the debate over the Income Tax Act and fed questions to the Tory Members of Parliament. I would not expect a man who would do that to