

S. O. 31

In fact the figures I have suggest that on a percentage basis their investments are much more important in this sector.

[*Translation*]

As I just said, I understand how much small and medium-sized businesses have contributed to the quality of life here in Canada, not only because they have created many jobs, which are very important, especially in a recession, but also because of what they do for research and development.

[*English*]

I would have hoped the government would have taken this opportunity not to look only at this particular point, that is the facilitation of greater credit for those enterprises that qualify for it. It might also have looked at removing the paperwork for certain programs such as the goods and services tax.

If one talks to business people one realizes very quickly an overhead that annoys them tremendously is the demand put on them by the government, not only this government but the provincial and territorial governments in some cases, with respect to paper work.

With regard to the goods and services tax it is particularly onerous. When I conducted a survey recently of small and medium-sized businesses in my constituency—there are close to 1,500—one of the the two single most important items was the amount of paper work being generated by government. It is impossible. It is crushing their efforts and really limiting what they can do. It is a very costly operation. They have asked that this be looked at. The other area the government might examine rather carefully is the whole idea of having a one-stop shop so that people can determine what is truly available.

In an uncritical way I simply want to point out that the literature from various governments is a lot more impressive than the actual programs that exist. What really exists in actual assistance for small and medium sized businesses?

I want to share three particular incidents in my riding. An aboriginal inventor has come up with all kinds of new inventions that are extremely promising, but when he went to government as an aboriginal he received some assistance but insufficient assistance to ensure that his

inventions are realized. It is really quite inadequate. He can only swim half way and then there is no further assistance.

In another particular instance two young men wanted to start a particular and unique tree farm where at Christmastime they would sell live trees. They would in fact be responding to environmental concerns; these trees could be replanted on the property of those who purchased them. What has happened is that they have gone to the federal government and to the provincial government, and all they have received are glossy brochures.

In another instance a company called Astro Float Materials in Winnipeg produces absolutely world-class float materials. Because of the number of criteria involved with respect to loans they are unable to get the financial assistance they require. It may be that they will in fact go elsewhere, to another country, because of our insensitive policies.

In a fourth instance a young woman came to me with regard to an idea she had for child care programs that might be useful to the citizens not only in my constituency but of others as well. She was not given any concrete assistance. There were plenty of brochures, however. My time has come to an end.

Mr. Speaker: It being two o'clock p.m., pursuant to Standing Order 30(5), the House will now proceed to Statements by Members pursuant to Standing Order 31.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

TAXATION

Mr. René Soetens (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, the Liberal Party has actively campaigned against the new drug patent legislation because, in its opinion, the proposed costs to health care were too high.

Now the Liberal Party has announced it would cancel the GST which exempts the Canadian health care system and all Canadians from paying the GST on prescription drugs. It wants to replace the GST with the new SHL, a sneaky hidden Liberal tax which the consumers would not know they were paying.