

Income Tax Act

bureaucratic pitfall, a stumbling block put before people to prevent them from progressing and developing their opportunities and to prevent them from developing the product of their dreams toward the realization of which they have worked so hard in the last few years.

Our farmers need our help. They need our co-operation. They need a government that understands them, not one that frustrates them with all sorts of bureaucratic manoeuvring. They need bureaucratic understanding of particular sections and the bureaucratic applications of those sections that so dramatically affect our farming community.

For a few moments I want to look at the business sector. It has been said many times in this House that the small business sector in particular is the mainstream of the economy. It creates the majority of jobs in the country. Very often—and this is certainly the case in my riding—we have family situations, a husband and wife operation. These people risk their savings, their homes, everything they have, in order to establish a business in their particular community. Often the income they receive from those businesses is much less than they would have accepted or received had they maintained a salaried job for several years. In other words, I think they would do what we as a country and as Canadians have often said they should be doing, and that is, encouraging people to take a chance, to create jobs and new opportunities. That is essentially what we have been doing. I think those people should be receiving some recognition for the kinds of efforts they are putting forward. But instead, what do they get? They get a complex Income Tax Act. They get one they cannot read nor understand. They end up with taxes which they simply cannot afford to pay. If these people are behind in their taxes, they find that the Department moves in and says, "Pay", regardless of the results to that business, even if the results mean bankruptcy.

We had examples of that in the House of Commons just yesterday. A Member of this House gave a specific example of what this Department had done to a business in his riding. We find that if a company gets behind in its payments to the Department of National Revenue the Government will seize the accounts receivable. We know that in the type of economy we have today that sends creditors into a state of panic. They move into a company, and a company that may have provided employment and opportunity for Canadians is suddenly forced out of business.

The best example of that I can give is a business with which I have grown up in a lot of ways. I have known the people all my life. They own a small service station in my home town. They serviced the first vehicle I ever bought. They have created a few jobs over the years, and this business has always been a steady source of employment in the community of Grimshaw. The people got involved in the oil patch in a small way in terms of operating seismic trucks and doing some seismic work in the winter. That again created a few more jobs and opportunities for people in the area. For years, because it was a husband and wife team, the wife would do the books and they would file their own income tax. It was a fairly simple

operation. These people worked hard and made a decent living. But what has happened to that business? Taxes have become so complex that they have been forced to hire professionals to do their accounting and bookkeeping. Today, when I stop in to visit them I find they are bitter and angry. They are wondering why in the world they are putting up with the headaches and the hassles. Why in the world should they not quit and do something else? Why should they not cease to worry about the problems into which they are forced on a day by day basis?

I want to conclude by saying that we as a Government have a responsibility to provide for Canadians an act that reflects their concerns and one that challenges them to take risks, develop opportunities and create employment for Canadians throughout the land. Instead, what we have is a government coming forward with an Act that intimidates, harasses and does nothing but frustrate the Canadian entrepreneur and frustrates anything that would resemble entrepreneurial attitudes and dreams in this country.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Questions, comments?

The Hon. Member for Verchères (Mr. Loiselle).

[*Translation*]

Mr. Bernard Loiselle (Verchères): Mr. Speaker, the debate in the House today is particularly important because its main purpose is to adopt the budgetary measures announced last April, measures that are aimed at strengthening the economy and encouraging investment in new capital facilities and new ideas that will help Canada forge ahead, at a time when economic growth is synonymous with technological progress.

The April budget was preceded by consultations on a scale hitherto unheard of in this country. These consultations were continued after the Budget was brought down and helped us to improve our proposals. Granted, this method has tended to slow down the process of implementing Budget legislation, but at the same time, it has helped to improve the content of the measures now before the House, a factor that is very important for speedy adoption by Parliament of the Budget's fiscal measures and for establishing a climate of trust conducive to sustained economic recovery.

As was to be expected, economic recovery is evolving at varying rates, depending on the region. In Quebec, for instance, where the recession has been more severe, there is more catching up to be done than in other parts of the country. In fact, Quebec's position is comparable to what Canada's is in relation to other industrialized countries.

I am happy to say there are encouraging signs that economic recovery in Quebec is picking up. The federal Government has made every effort to make recovery truly nationwide, and to continue to pave the way for a better economic outlook in all regions. It is interesting to note that many of these tax measures are very advantageous for small and medium-sized businesses, which, as we all know, are becoming increasingly important in Quebec's economic structure.