

*Government Orders*

I will relate some facts that are as current as I can get to point out what I just said. I think they are fairly up to date. The small entrepreneur in this country and the sole proprietor is going to be responsible for the job creations. Unemployment at the end of 1992 was 11.6 per cent. This means approximately 610,000 workers were looking for a job and still receiving benefits within our country. Today, there are over one million people on welfare whose benefits have run out.

Let me just refer for a short time to the province of Ontario. I know that a lot of members in the House will not agree with concentrating on Ontario, but it has always seemed to be the engine that has run the economy of Canada. There are 235,000 Ontario small businesses employing one to five persons. In Ontario, there are 63,000 businesses employing 5 to 19 persons, 18,000 businesses employing from 20 to 49 persons and 12,000 businesses employing between 54 and 499 persons. There are only 1,500 Ontario businesses employing over 500 persons.

With those facts in mind, it is important for us to realize that we must create the atmosphere that is so important for that very small entrepreneur—employing from one to twenty people—to help him go out into the marketplace and take these people off the unemployment rolls and perhaps help those on welfare.

I should mention that our deliberations at the committee level will just be the start of the process. We fully intend to suggest to the government throughout this process, once the small business legislation is put in place, that it should be doing other things with respect to legislation in our country. It should be looking at the Federal Business Development Bank. It should be looking at incorporating changes in the Bank Act, particularly sections 178 and 427 that follow the security interest of those products that are produced in this country and allows the small business facilities that will be available to our country to follow that security for protection.

Looking at the credit that is being extended by the Government of Canada to every creator of jobs in this country, we are giving assurance to the rest of the Canadian people that their money is not being put into

jeopardy and it does not add one single penny to the cost of administering this country today.

If we cannot extend the credit to the people of this country who are going to create the jobs, then we might as well hold our ship because there is not going to be any job creation in this country at all.

There are some fundamental issues that I think have to be addressed. We need to address the availability of access to working capital to continue to expand the small business enterprises in Canada. My colleagues have addressed one of the questions so I will not go into great detail on it, but they are asking about the role of the present lending institutions. These are the chartered banks that we have in place that are supposed to be looking after the needs of small business. What is the role of the present lending institutions with respect to capital availability?

We know full well from what we have seen in the last two or three years that the availability of working capital has been restrained to the small business enterprise because of the practices and procedures of the major lending institutions in this country. For some reason, although we on all sides of the House are prepared to admit that, we have not been able to do anything as a government to make these lending institutions make cash more available to the small business entrepreneur in this country.

What we have to do, and we are doing it today, is to make the necessary changes to the Small Businesses Loans Act. When we make these changes we ask ourselves: "Why do the lending institutions of our country not respond to the needs of the small business community?"

The second problem we are going to face is how we can communicate. I addressed this a short time ago, but it is a major and fundamental question that we will ask in committee: "How do we communicate this benefit to the small business communities throughout this country and to the sole proprietorships so that the effects of this legislation will get to the people who need it?" That is the person who is going to create a job in this country for one of the people presently on the unemployment rolls.