

*Government Orders*

business world, to be their own boss, but with some chance of success.

What we see so often in the business community is people with a germ of an idea. They know where they want to go and what they want to accomplish. Unfortunately, they do not know what hoops they have to jump through in order to meet those ends and aspirations successfully. Often, they are unable to calculate a budget properly. Sometimes they have a lot of difficulty with the various rules and regulations set out by government bodies. I suggest that they be given that place to go to get some ideas, to get some basic training in business in terms of how to succeed in business, a place to look for contributions and grants, a place to go to put together their financial packages and to learn how to properly budget. All of these things could be offered in this service centre.

Further, I suggest that the Federal Business Development Bank should be reformed to refocus its activities on small business, especially those most in need. I spoke about this in a motion which was accepted by all sides of this House. I suggested in that motion that the Federal Business Development Bank should be made more relevant to small businesses as opposed to the large or medium sized businesses. Although not all business groups feel that the Federal Business Development Bank is the route to go, it seems that it is the one tool that can be used successfully to ensure a successful small business community, one that thrives.

I further suggest that we direct the Canada Patent Development Corporation to work with small businesses to help them patent new innovations and to market those patents world wide. It is particularly the case in small communities, as I am sure it is in larger communities in Canada, that people with ideas, inventions and interesting innovations do not know where to turn in order to have these successfully produced and patented and to have their inventions successfully protected. We have a lot of expertise within Canada and a lot of people with a lot of good ideas. They do not have the education to know which steps to go through. Often, one of the problems is they do not have the financial backing. They cannot afford to employ a patent lawyer to give them the advice that they require. We have to look at that area in assisting our small business community to expand.

I remind the House that in the last 10 years 70 per cent of the employment created within Canada was created by the small business community. The profits made by these small businesses are usually turned back into the businesses, therefore turned back into Canada in assisting Canada grow and Canadians prosper. We must ensure that this small business community is encouraged, is nurtured and is assured success into the future.

I would further suggest that the tax system be changed to make severance pay tax exempt and to allow the tax-free use of registered retirement savings plans where they are used to start up a new small business. It is not a new idea, but something I suggest could be looked at to encourage the way of the future for Canada. Such a provision would encourage these people who have tucked away some money through one method or another to be able to invest in their idea for the future and to create their niche within Canada's small business community.

I would suggest, as I did earlier, that we immediately move away from the high interest rate policies that we have at the present time. These are very destructive to the small business community.

Last, but certainly not least, in my list of suggestions for this government is that it must now listen to the over 80 per cent of Canadians, and the almost unanimous decision of the small business community, that it must get rid of this goods and services tax. It cannot continue with its jackboot attitudes toward democracy by what is going on in this House through closure, time allocation and by what has been going on in the finance committee over the last couple of days. The government majority in that committee is trying to stop free debate on a tax change so massive that it will cut the legs out from under the small business community when it needs the help the most.

What has been going on in that committee and what has happened in the House since I have been here is scandalous, to say the least. The government has simply said: "We do not want to hear you as Canadians. We do not want to hear you. We will take your briefs, we will not necessarily read them. We do not want to travel to your region of the country. We do not want you to know what we are doing and we do not want you to speak to the committee. We are restricting the ability of Canadians to appear before the finance committee. We are restricting the ability of your members of Parliament as your spokespersons to speak in committees and in Parliament". I say shame on the government for all of