

Income Tax

Why cannot we have more federal-provincial co-operation in planning, programs, budgets, restraint, and even foreign borrowing? This is what the people want to know. In another area another plea we hear is that more breaks and more money should be given to small business as opposed to big business. We have talked about it ourselves and we hear about it in certain ridings such as my own, in Halton, where there is a lot of small business.

This morning there was an article in the Toronto paper by Andrew Kniewasser, the President of the Investment Dealers' Association of Canada. He had this to say:

● (2032)

Too little has been committed to new equity financing, permanent ownership capital to build new businesses or expand existing ones, and too little of this flow of capital has been directed to financing small and medium firms or regional firms.

I think a lot of us will certainly agree with that.

As for better industrial relations, we have talked a lot about this matter, but do not seem to be able to get very far, certainly not without the co-operation of big business and labour. However, it is the key, and people are hungering for better industrial relations very much. They are fed up with the squabbling that goes on in the market place between these two giants.

An hon. Member: Are you hungering to get to cabinet?

Mr. Philbrook: There are more important things than getting to cabinet, my friend. If there is anyone who should appreciate that, it is you folks on the other side, because your chances are not very good.

Mr. Benjamin: Just have patience.

Mr. Philbrook: With a caucus like yours it will need patience.

There is another area which is quite sensitive but we will have to address ourselves to it because the people are doing so. I refer to crippling strikes in what are called essential services. Some people say we cannot define what are essential services. I do not believe that. I think the people can define that for us. I think they would probably say they include all areas of transportation and communication, the public service, and all security services such as the police and firemen.

An hon. Member: What about health services?

Mr. Philbrook: Health is included in security. We must find a better way to solve our differences than having strikes, because I think the people are fed up with losing essential services.

Our businessmen also worry about what is going on in GATT and they want more information about it. They do not want to be shut out of this crucial area, because some of our businesses may have to close down. There is also still a little concern about foreign ownership, although the situation is quiet at the moment.

[Mr. Philbrook.]

Along with all this there is another painful area which we shall have to examine. I refer to long range planning. We have heard the arguments on this matter. We have heard it said that we do not need long range strategies because we have a multitude of policies, and I guess we do. The only trouble is that it is like looking at thousands of small things at the same time; the people cannot see any direction. They cannot see any direction from the leadership, from the government of this country, and they wonder where on earth we are going. So as difficult as it is, Mr. Speaker, it is essential that we get down to examining this, and I cannot think of any better government to do this than the present Liberal government.

If we are going to cope with shortages and competition and let this country reach its potential, we will need some more effective, more impressive, long range policies than the public has seen until now. And this despite short range politics. Indeed, I think we can assume a fair degree of stable government. I am not sure why we worry about forming these long range policies and carrying them out because I do not see much chance of a change of government.

I also think it is very important that we work with the provincial governments and the private sector. This is easier said than done, but again worth underlining. What are the main areas here? Certainly public transportation is one. My constituents as well as this House know where I stand on that matter, particularly in terms of commuter transit and the disappointment we have had in not financing that more than we have. We have discussed it quite a lot, and we will be talking about it again some time.

Another area which should be examined is science technology and research; I think my colleague, the hon. member for Wellington (Mr. Maine) would support that. This field has been badly short-changed in recent years. It is the basis of all our industry, all our manufacturing, and along with the private sector we must do a better job in this regard. Energy is another area requiring attention.

If I may be permitted a brief aside, one of the questions we will have to solve, a matter some of us are working on now, is this question of world population. We really have a time bomb ticking away, whether we realize it or not from our comfortable position here in Canada.

However, the big question is industrial strategy. Here I would like to give credit to my own colleagues who have worked hard on this question for several months, and perhaps do not yet have the final answers though they do have a great deal more insight. I refer in particular to my colleague from Scarborough East who has recently published a paper of which I think the government is well aware.

Before I wrap up my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I should like to place on the record a short statement published by the Science Council of Canada. It is a statement of concern which is based on a larger background paper called "Uncertain Prospects: Canadian Manufacturing Industry, 1971-1977". If the House will bear with me, I should like to put this excerpt on the record, because I really think it says it all.