

Government Orders

As I mentioned earlier, small businesses have the opportunity of having capital gains exemption available and that is important.

We needed to add to that and we have by some of the areas I mentioned. But we are also going to give them the opportunity and incentive to hire. That is something which was passed on to me by the small business people. They said: "You want us to hire and train people. Then give us an incentive to do that". That would be helpful and important.

We have done that in this announcement. They will have a forgiveness on UI premiums. That is an incentive. That is on top of the training programs and the training incentives we have where we will be directing more money under this budget. That is important to small business.

There are programs where they not only would not be paying UI premiums as an incentive but also they will be able to bring people on and have their on the job training portion done under a training allowance and training moneys. That is important so that they can have them trained. They will be subsidized and then they will be able to take them on in a graduated way to work for them. That is certainly important.

I did mention the 10 per cent investment tax credit which was announced. That would be for buying and enhancing their businesses.

I just talked to a business person the other day. The business is a printing company doing specialized photography that is then used in printing brochures and that sort of thing. The cash flow was a little bit tight.

To make itself competitive and to gain business in the United States it needed the combination of a Small Businesses Loans Act, banking institutions that were more interested, and a finance minister who was certainly going to be having constant conversations with the Canadian Bankers Association.

On top of that, this company needed \$10,000 to purchase a computerized system which would make the business 50 per cent more efficient. It needed the combination of a tax credit, which we are going to do now, and an opportunity of having money instantly made available to it that had not been forthcoming as readily as it will be when we change the Small Businesses Loans Act. The combination is there.

• (1620)

In the statement by our finance minister, the government is sending strong signals to members of the Canadian Bankers Association wanting them to be much more liberal with their moneys and their investments with small business.

I laud the finance minister for taking heed of the suggestions which have been made and for his interest in small businesses knowing that their growth will energize our country and make jobs. That is what people are looking for.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Madam Speaker, I really must contain myself. My constituency office has been confronted with an onslaught of telephone calls from irate, angry constituents who are aware of the contents of this mini budget which I heard the hon. member for Carleton—Charlotte moments ago describe as balanced.

If there is one thing that seems clear beyond all others, it is that this government seems to assume an economic rebound in the United States will likely have far more effect in Canada than any initiative taken here. It is curious to see the basis for that rebound in the United States.

I have in my hand Bill Clinton's campaign program. It is entitled "Putting People First". Now that is curious is it not? The United States which has been the symbol of neo-conservative politics and the model for this government has turned its back on the very ideology this government continues to pursue. What are the elements of that "Putting People First" initiative in the United States?

First of all, it is a kick-start investment in infrastructure not just to create empty jobs but to reconstruct the infrastructure for transportation, education, social programs, research and development and all of those things that will set the pattern for permanent growth later.

The second element of it is a vast investment in people, training, and education. It is an electronic highway that will not just go to educators and scientists in business and government but one which by the year 2015 will provide access to the kind of information that is necessary for education and technical information in every single household in the United States. Clearly it is an initiative that is intended to empower people in a new