

*Government Orders*

We have here proposed changes to the original legislation, which is the Small Businesses Loans Act. The Small Businesses Loans Act is a short statute in so far as the Statutes of Canada are concerned. It is eight pages. The amendments that are being proposed will not lengthen the eight pages of the act. One of the vital issues, as with most legislation in Canada, is that the regulations become very cumbersome.

I do not know whether I have all of the regulations as they pertain to the Small Businesses Loans Act in Canada, but I had the Library draw the regulations. Although the act is only eight pages long, we have 40 some pages of regulations to govern the eight page statute. I am hoping that we will, for the first time I think in a federal statute which will go out to perhaps 900,000 to one million small business entrepreneurs in Canada, be able to combine the Small Businesses Loans Act and other pertinent pieces of legislation that affect the small business community within our country, consolidate all of those acts and the regulations thereto and put them in one volume.

When a small business entrepreneur is looking for references and needs the guidance that the statute law provides, and those areas that are available to him for either capital improvements or loan improvements, renovation improvements as the act is proposing, he or she should be able to go to a consolidated piece of legislation, much the same as we have in the province of Ontario. The regulations follow the act and it is a very simple document to refer to at all times. The simplicity of it is greatly appreciated by those who use the facilities of the act. That is one of the proposals we will be making.

We make that proposal for another reason. There will have to be some consultation and information sent to every small business entrepreneur in Canada. This would be the most vital piece of information that this House could supply to the small business concerns throughout this country in a very timely and efficient fashion. That will be another one of our recommendations.

As I said at the outset, we support this legislation. I think it is important that we tell to the people of Canada why we choose to support this legislation so vigorously.

• (1340 )

It goes without saying that with all the discussion that we had in the past, especially after the referendum, that

we have all turned our minds back to what we call the regeneration of this economy. Along with this, the most important and vital area is the creation of jobs. This can only be solved today by making an atmosphere in the small business community that is responsive and is conducive for them to go out and hire the people who are looking for jobs in this country. The last figure I heard for unemployment was 11.5 per cent. The small business community can hire the unemployed in this country and even go so far as taking people who are presently on welfare and cannot find a job and have exhausted the benefits available to them.

Job creation, without question, is the top priority of every member of this House. There was a time in our economy when we used to look to the giant corporations in our country to assist in this very vital area of job creation. At one time we used to look to General Motors, Stelco and Dofasco. We used to look to Canadian Pacific Forest Products. We used to look to our Crown corporations like CN Rail. We used to look to other forest product companies to create the jobs in this country. We used to look to the forestry industry because it was the largest single employer in this country. It employs over 800,000 people. In the forestry industry, there are more small and medium-sized companies than there are large companies.

This economy of ours and the governments that are large employers have come to rely on these large corporations for the creation of jobs. However, they can no longer be relied on to create the necessary jobs in our country.

If we agree with that premise, then the only alternative available to us for regenerating the economy of this country and creating the necessary jobs is through the small business enterprise in our country and the sole proprietorship.

This is simply the issue. Should all the members of this House, regardless of political stripe, concentrate their entire efforts to create an atmosphere that is conducive and supportive to the small business entrepreneur or the sole proprietorship? If that is our goal, then we must do it with the express purpose of job creation in our economy. Therefore when we talk today about the adoption of this legislation and the creation of working capital for our small business people, it is with the express purpose of creating jobs within our country.