

said, "Who do you think you are?" "Who does Tommy Douglas think he is?", they asked. Two years later when the whole thing fell apart, they are sitting there red-faced and they cannot understand. They are the biggest bunch of absolute phonies in the world, and that is a polite phrase. I only wish some of the people in the media would read their own newspapers of a few years back.

Mr. Blenkarn: How about you reading the Bill?

Mr. Kristiansen: They would realize that while some of us are certainly not infallible, every once in a while we know something about the marketplace that they fail to understand and appreciate, that it is not a fairyland where you can give away what you have, have no bargaining power left, and then have the right to complain because somebody takes you for a ride. We are constantly being taken for a ride. These guys over here, the Conservatives, and those guys over there, the Liberals, have been the drivers who have taken us for that ride into the sorry situation in which we find our economy today.

Mr. Blais: Who is introducing this Bill?

Mr. Kristiansen: Maybe the Government wants to atone for its sins. Maybe it is going to turn over a new leaf and behave in a little more accountable and responsible way. But you will pardon us, Mr. Speaker, if we have to see it to believe it. We have been a long time waiting.

While the Conservatives and Liberals have joined in one megaproject boondoggle after another, projects which have collapsed in our faces, most regrettably those of the people of Canada, they have continually neglected over decades and decades and decades the renewable resources of this land, the forest industry in particular. Again, it is many small companies in that industry which need assistance from the EDC and other agencies of Government because they do not have the wherewithal to seek out many of those specialized markets in Europe, the Middle East and other places, in many cases where the purchasing companies are willing to put the capital up front. Those smaller companies, which are lean enough, hungry enough and adaptable enough to be able to cut their product to suit those markets, do not have the facilities to seek those markets out. They need that kind of assistance and require financial assistance in start-up costs, modification costs, so they can meet the markets many of us know are there.

I have had, Mr. Speaker, many examples in my own electoral district, certainly in the adjoining ones, of small private companies which made it during this period when the giants were flopping and failing, the giants which have been traditionally favoured by both the Government and representatives of the Official Opposition whether in Ottawa or the various Provinces. I have seen them make it because they are willing to adapt. They are willing to go out as much as they can with their limited resources, change their production line and their measurements. They will go to metric, imperial or whatever. They will cut one foot, two foot, three foot or whatever is required in order to adapt to the market as it exists. They do not sit back on their fat rumps like a lot of the majors have

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done in the forest industry over the last few years and say, "Come to us". Markets do not just come to you, especially in lean times. They got so used to being big and fat when times were great and they sat back and said, "We are just going to cut for volume. To heck with quality. To heck with having to modify our industrial plant to meet whatever demands are there." So they have collapsed.

If it were just those corporate managers who had to suffer, Mr. Speaker, well, they made the decisions and they have the right to suffer. But there are 300 communities across this country who have suffered terribly from the consequences of their decisions. There are hundreds of thousands of working people and small businesses which provide the machinery and support services those companies traditionally require, and they have been the ones which have had to suffer. Just as the ordinary consumers and farmers and small business people and homeowners of Canada have had to suffer through interest rates and inflation for which corporate mergers and the arms budget in the U.S. were in large part responsible, so are the service industries and small business people in 300 communities across Canada being asked to pay the price once again for decisions that they had no part whatsoever in making.

I would like to conclude simply by saying that one of the things that we have to address, if we are talking about the nature of the economy we must have if we are to adapt and not serve just some mythical target but the needs of the Canadian people, is to decide whether we want an accountable society with decentralized power-structures where people from all walks of life have a more direct say in governing their communities, their resources and their means of livelihood. In that way they can ensure the decisions made meet their needs and not just self-perpetuating corporate managers. Or do we want a society in which an increasingly concentrated and monopolistic corporate big daddy, through its Government agents, be they Liberal or Conservative, decides what is best for him with the interests of the people and the nation as an afterthought? Those are the two choices facing Canadians. It is, fundamentally the choice, represented broadly—though we are not without sin—between the NDP on one side of the argument and the Liberals and Tories on the other. No matter what legislation the Government passes, if it does not decide that it will make the economy work for people rather than have the people work for the economy, it will fall flat on its face. The ordinary people of Canada are the ones who will be continuously asked to pay the price. They have paid enough. It is time the Government gave them a product that was worth it.

● (1750)

Mr. Dan McKenzie (Winnipeg-Assiniboine): Mr. Speaker, it was certainly interesting to listen to a Member of the New Democratic Party, the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Kristiansen), tell us how, if his Party formed the government, and heaven help us if it ever did, it would do away with business. Could one imagine what would happen to this country if the NDP did away with all business? It is against business and against profit. What a mess we would have. I am glad the Hon. Member mentioned the name of Tommy Doug-