

Government Orders

such? We are asking a minimum tax on large corporations, on profitable corporations. We are asking—if you pay attention, if the minister pays attention—

Mr. McDermid: Check your facts.

Mr. Whittaker: Profitable corporations should pay their fair share of taxes. Everybody in Canada should pay their fair share, including the minister. Unfortunately the minister does not really know too many policies. He does not even know the policies of his own government. As a matter of fact he got our page so upset that like him she spilled something just like he spills forth with stuff about which he knows nothing. That is exactly what happened here.

I would suggest further to the minister and to the Speaker that the small fishing community is again a small business community. What has the government done for that community? Perhaps we should ask what has the government done to that community? It seems that on the west coast and on the east coast we have a further destruction of the small business community for the fisherpeople. I would say that that again is unfair.

We also see a mass of bureaucracy and red tape for the small business community. These poor people who are trying to start up firms, often small businesses consisting from one up to five people, have to go to lawyers to get interpretations of all of the mass of red tape in order to get loans and start operations, with the added expense of the borrowing. That appears to be what this government has done to and for small business.

What do we propose for small business? We have to ensure that banks provide more loans to small business at the same rates as those given to the large corporations. We should establish in government a more aggressive "Buy Canada" program which includes government contracts and is targeted to the small business community enterprises. This is how we can give a little hope to some of the small business community.

In the riding of Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt I have tried to ensure that the small business people there are aware of the government contracts that they can perhaps bid on. But the process is so complex and complicated. They go on a waiting list for over a year and they become frustrated.

Those who do succeed in getting some of those bits and pieces of contracts find that they have to wait from 60 to 90 days often to get paid for what services and goods they have supplied. We must streamline the process within government to ensure that we are geared to helping small business. The government should consider the small business community when making its purchases.

We should further provide risk and venture capital for small businesses. We should provide greater opportunities for women to establish small businesses, including the commitment by the banks to treat women in an equal manner. I have spoken a number of times in debate on small business bills and small business motions about the unfairness to the women in the business community when they deal with banks. I will not go into it in great detail at this time, but I want to show you, Madam Speaker, that in spite of strides that have been made by the banking community, and perhaps even by the various governments across Canada, women are still not looked on with equality in the small business community.

• (1530)

Further, we should identify areas in which small business could expand in order to meet consumer demands now covered by imports. We should provide small businesses with relevant financial marketing and management assistance through a federal one-stop shopping centre to be organized in conjunction with local business communities. I think this is a key to what we should be looking at for the small business community.

What we run into constantly as lawyers in communities, as advisers to the small business community and as members of Parliament fielding questions of the business community is that these people do not know where to go for assistance. They do not know where to turn. They do not know how to go about getting where they want to go through the bureaucracy, federally, provincially, or whatever. There should be offered to these people a one-stop shopping area where they can get the advice they need. They could pick up the brochures they need, as well as the forms they need in order to apply for various grants and programs. They could get advice there, something which they now do through case counselling in the Federal Business Development Bank. Everything should be in one location to assist the small entrepreneur who wants desperately to make it on his or her own in the