

SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

ALBERTA—INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SMALL BUSINESSES

Mr. Walter Van De Walle (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, October 25 to 31 is Small Business Week in Canada. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the nation's entrepreneurs.

We are all well aware that small businesses are the core of Canada's economy. They are the source of new ideas, the cradle of innovation. In addition, small businesses provide the greater portion of jobs and opportunities for the people of this country.

In my home province, the Province of Alberta, there are approximately 120,000 small businesses of which 97 per cent employ less than 100 people. I was pleased to find that in the first part of this year Alberta saw an increase of 10,169 small businesses. This is indeed good news.

Small Business Week is a time to look at the accomplishments of the people who own and operate the nation's small businesses. Not only did they provide 70 per cent of the new jobs in the last two years, but they have also shown that individual determination and hard work can have a significant impact on the outlook of the entire nation.

The Canada-U.S. trade agreement will present new opportunities. Canadians as free enterprisers can look forward to a bright future of increased employment and productivity. Small business is big business in Canada.

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REVENUE CANADA

AUDIT OF FARMERS' INCOMES

Mr. Vic Althouse (Humboldt—Lake Centre): Mr. Speaker, the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. MacKay) is again harassing some 700 farmers who used the investment tax credit when they traded in old machines for new ones. The point at issue is whether or not the machinery dealers were offering too much for used machines. Revenue Canada thinks it knows this market better than the dealers. In the final analysis, it is the farmers who pay the taxes levied.

Since 1986, several Ministers have personally assured farmers that the audits begun in late 1985 would stop. They did for a time, but since then they have been on again and off again several times. Audits last stopped last spring but now they are on again.

The investment tax credit program helps in many deals. Unfortunately, Revenue Canada has never made it clear how it wants things handled. Its interpretations are retroactive and changeable, its actions are of questionable legality. What law permits it to rewrite legal contracts years after the fact?

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POLITICAL PARTIES

CANADA-UNITED STATES TRADE AGREEMENT—POSITION OF LIBERAL AND NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTIES

Mr. Gordon Taylor (Bow River): Mr. Speaker, the NDP and the Liberals are trying to fool the people by saying over and over again that free trade will mean the loss of sovereignty, that we will lose our social programs and that the Americans will take our jobs. What nonsense!

Canada has had virtually free trade for a number of years in some red meats. We have not lost our sovereignty, none of our social programs have disappeared and no Americans have taken our jobs. On the contrary, this free trade with the United States has brought benefits in the way of more prosperous times for the ranchers, more jobs for the people and increased prosperity for the areas involved in both countries.

The NDP and the Liberals seem to think that if they tell a non-truth often enough, the people will believe it. Canadians are not naive. What free trade has done for the red meats can be repeated over and over again, bringing buoyancy to our economy, and prosperity and jobs to our people.

• (1415)

So keep right on, Mr. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and Progressive Conservatives. There is victory at the end of the road for free trade and a greater united Canada.

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INDIAN AFFAIRS

FEDERAL-MANITOBA CHILD WELFARE ACCORD—REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane—Superior): Mr. Speaker, this is to advise the House that in November, 1985, the previous Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Hon. Member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie), signed a political Accord on Manitoba Indian child welfare. The Accord was signed with Indian representatives and the provincial Minister of Community Services. It outlined a negotiation process for a new child welfare arrangement in Manitoba to replace the existing tripartite agreement which was about to expire.

Although that Accord was signed two years ago, there has been no progress towards the new arrangement which it provided for. The political-ministerial negotiations stipulated in the Accord have not taken place.

The Manitoba Indian child welfare agencies are currently operating with funding levels below those of their provincial counterparts. They are, however, expected to provide services according to provincial standards. Yet they do not have the resources that will allow them to carry out those responsibilities.