

*Government Orders*

with jobs who are nervous, wondering whether or not the companies they are working for are going to survive the next six, eight, ten months.

One of the things that is essential to the survival of a company is the productivity of the work force. It is the human capital. The banker does not really decide whether a company ultimately stays or dies. It can go a long way in that direction, but the most important thing is to have a galvanized work force, a work force that does not need to look over its shoulder, a work force that does not have to worry that: "My goodness, the next payroll. My cheque may not be there. If my company does not make it, I am out of pocket. I am stuck."

The minister should listen to the member for Mississauga South who has shown a lot of courage here today by giving constructive advice to his colleagues in government and he is saying: "Let us shift our priorities. Let us take that leap of faith".

I think that if the minister were to put a super priority on the labour force of this nation, that would go a long way in giving credibility to the paper that the Minister for International Trade released in this House yesterday.

You see, Mr. Minister, the problem that we have in this country right now is the trust factor. Very few people trust this productivity paper process. They think it is a bit of a public relations sham.

You are sitting in the House today. You have a bill that can affect the productivity of this nation probably more than most people realize. If you take that leap of faith and put the labour force of this country in a protected position, you will probably minimize the number of bankruptcies in the next few years.

I give you credit for cleaning up a piece of legislation that is 42 years old. You are three-quarters of the way there, but you have to address this point. Quite frankly, I think if you do not listen to my colleague from Halifax—Dartmouth who so succinctly presented the case for the work force of this nation yesterday as well as the member for Mississauga South, if you ignore that, then you are going to make the words of the Minister for International Trade yesterday in this House vulnerable. It is going to show that you are really not committed to innovation, you are really not committed to shifting your priorities.

If there was ever a time in this country to take a leap of faith in the work force of this nation, it is today. I think you have a very special, a very unique opportunity.

The second point that I want to address in this legislation is the tax. It is not the 10 cents *per se* or 10 cents per week per every employee on every pay cheque. It is the principle that you are opening up another tax, and it is the paper burden that goes with it.

There is a third point. I do not like the psychology of this, that every week you are as an employer, reminding yourself about this bankruptcy legislation. That 10 cent a week payment has a negative psychological effect. There is enough negative press in this country. There is enough bad news in this country. You do not need to be reminded every time you fill out a payroll that you are insuring against bankruptcy. That is a factor we have never discussed.

• (1720)

It seems to me that we are too concerned about the banking community in this country. It is time to slow down our thinking when it comes to the banking community's agenda. I do not think there is any one of us in this House over the last 18 months, whether it be friends or constituents who have not experienced a relationship with the banks.

As a medium-sized businessman who has talked to many other businessmen, the banks always have their position protected. Find me a bank today in this country that has taken some kind of leap of faith on a consistent basis. I am not suggesting that there are not bank managers who are not fair. But there is a banking policy, mostly presented to the branches coast to coast to coast which dictates that they want every nickel of their investment covered. They want every nickel of their loan covered. They want it guaranteed with homes. They want it guaranteed with insurance policies. They want triple security.

I do not think we should be letting the banking agenda of this country get another form of security. We should let the work force of this country control a little bit of the agenda and put the banks into a secondary position.