

*Government Orders*

Without getting into the \$200,000 and \$250,000 loans that many people cannot get, we should be encouraging those lending institutions to get behind those firms with much smaller loans.

What about providing assistance as previous governments did and try to tackle the problem of limited cash flow to those small businesses in operation or those being created which address the needs of our younger Canadians to get that first break, that first job experience and to have on the job training.

The previous Liberal administration had a program. It helped match those needs in society by going to small businesses. It said that if the firms hired young Canadians to do real jobs, if they were willing to provide that experience, that first break, that on the job training, the government would help with the salary. As an incentive to the employer, the government would kick in partial assistance for the salaries of those young Canadians.

That is money well spent. That is not money thrown at a problem. That is the positive use of government funds to tangibly assist small business meet the payroll. At the same time it gives that first important start to a young Canadian.

Why are we not doing things like that any more? If it is not that program *per se*, why are we not using the creativity that fuelled that initiative some years ago? Why not think of something along the same lines that would practically and tangibly address the different needs that we, as members of Parliament, are hearing from firms?

As a government and a country why are we not being aggressive in the international marketplace? I and other members have many small and medium-sized firms in our ridings that have bid on jobs along with Japanese and West German firms. They were not in the marketplace because the governments of those firms made our small business applications uncompetitive by virtue of the fact that the firms from my riding bidding on those international contracts simply did not have the back-up support, resources and level of financing from our governments that those same sized firms in West Germany or Japan had from their governments. We were not even in the ballpark.

We also have to just talk about the free trade agreement or the NAFTA and the government pounds its chest saying that we are really moving with the world, that we are talking about the new world order and we have to be competitive. The fact is there has been a hell of a lot more pain endured thanks to the FTA than there have been positive attributes.

When talking about firms competing with other firms, let us be very practical. Let us be in the ballpark and let us support those firms so that they can enter those bids at least with some assistance that is on the same level the other firms receive from their respective governments.

What about stimulating the economy? We have heard many times in this House that the government cannot do this, it cannot do that. It is unprepared to stimulate and spend money and suggests there is no money to spend.

• (1610)

I am not suggesting we become irresponsible with our finances. Do you not think the Americans have a concern with their finances? Do you not think the Japanese are concerned about their fiscal house? Do you think the European Community does not give a hoot about theirs as well? During these tough times, those different jurisdictions have made a concrete decision to try to get business, confidence, investment and spending moving again.

The refusal of this government, the stubborn, dogmatic, persistent refusal to try to stimulate our economy hurts first and foremost the small business sector. In my own riding many of the small businesses are in the trades and construction. Firms that used to employ 80, 90, 100 employees are now down to two or three. Those firms rather than looking to Toronto are looking to eastern Europe to try to build and construct. Firms are looking to Taiwan. Firms say that they are no longer getting jobs and investment opportunities in Ontario or Toronto. The main reason is that the marketplace is dead.

There has to be a recognition of the facts. We cannot hide behind ideology all the time. It has to be realized that to stimulate is not to waste money, but is to induce jobs, to encourage risk, to encourage small business, to hire more people, to increase revenues, to build confidence.