

*Government Orders*

nothing in order to support them compared to what we do for large business.

Large business in Canada is essentially controlled by a number of small families who also donate to the Conservative and Liberal parties. They consider those two parties wholly-owned subsidiaries when they are doing business with government and doing business in Canada. If we examine business in this country we find that large business in Canada is the least competitive and the least innovative. As a result, Canada is not served well by its large business sector.

We continue to bleed huge amounts of the government's tax expenditures into that sector while getting virtually nothing in return. Part of the problem is that there is too tight a connection between the bureaucrats in the Ministry of Finance and the large business sector. There seems to be an unethical kind of transfer back and forth between those two sectors.

I want to draw attention to an article about Mickey Cohen in a recent *Globe and Mail* business report which pointed out that as the deputy minister of finance he was responsible for a substantial number of tax concessions made to business. While he was the deputy minister he made available a half-billion dollar tax concession to Olympia and York developments and suddenly, within weeks, he was an employee of Olympia and York developments. There was simply too tight a connection between those groups.

Is that the kind of entrepreneurs we are developing in the large business sector in Canada? While they are working for the government they manufacture tax concessions for their future employers. That has been the problem with the way this government has dealt with large business in this country all along.

As far as I am concerned there has to be more attention paid to small business people. Those are the people who keep our small communities alive. Those are the people who develop the new and innovative products that are going to take Canada into the world economy as a high technology competitor, and yet that is the sector of the economy that is being starved.

Rather than hacking away at programs for native Indians, rather than hacking away at programs for women, rather than hacking away at programs for small businesses by converting their grants to repayable loans in the budget, we should have been helping those sectors

because that is where the greatest number of jobs are being created in this economy.

I intend to vote for this bill, but I am certainly concerned about the kind of favouritism this government and the previous government has shown to the large business sector at the expense of small business and individuals.

**Mr. Skelly (North Island—Powell River)** Mr. Speaker, the issue I would like to raise with the hon. member is the role of big business and the advantages it draws compared to those of small business and the need for the public to have some input.

I would like to address to him a matter relating to the P. J. Wooding Ferro chromium proposal for Port Hardy, British Columbia. It is a major business proposal. The company has received about \$4.5 million from the federal government and \$4.5 million from the provincial government.

The people to be affected by that project have not managed to obtain any positive response from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Minister of the Environment, the minister responsible for western diversification or the minister responsible for Indian Affairs on intervenor funding. It is absolutely crucial, if a business with serious impact is to be developed in a community, that intervenor funding be provided to those groups attempting to explore the environmental and social impacts of such a business.

Without prejudice or without prejudging the particular project, the community has a right to know. There are native people in that area who are concerned about their land claim, about the effect on their traditional way of life. They need money to purchase expertise, to study it, and to input properly into the environmental assessment review panel.

• (1320)

This is such an important area for the fishery on the northern end of Vancouver Island that the community affected by possible impacts must have help from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to obtain technical expertise. The Western Initiative Fund people felt that it was necessary for expertise and input to be given, and that is why we have the assessment review panel in place, but at this point there is an unwillingness on their part to provide technical assistance through intervenor funding or direct aid to these groups.