

*Government Orders*

parliamentary secretary to the minister has pointed out, that we have already started shifting in this country to an emphasis on small business. More and more the small business community is becoming the backbone of Canada, as I am sure most people realize it has been in the past.

If we look at various studies we find that the small business community creates jobs for Canadians. It reinvests profits from small business back into Canada and the people of Canada. That is something that we as Canadians must strive for. We must ensure that the jobs we are creating are jobs created for Canadians, by Canadians; that the profits we make are sunk into the future of our country and our youth; and that we do not place a major emphasis in the future on large corporations, multinationals that pull their profits out of the regions or areas as they see fit.

• (1040)

If members opposite are looking upon that statement with a little scepticism, I would like to tell them a little story about their own Conservative government in the Northwest Territories. When we met with them in the finance committee, they discussed the future of the Northwest Territories and how the goods and services tax was going to affect the small business or the business community in the Northwest Territories.

What they told us was, yes, although the large business resource sector is a major portion of the Gross Domestic Product of the Northwest Territories, in fact it creates very few of the jobs. Only something like 20 per cent of all people employed work in the resource sector.

What they told us is that most of the profits, instead of going for development and exploration in the Northwest Territories, are being pulled out and used for development in other countries where they feel it is cheaper or easier to develop their resources.

I am using this as an example to show the propensity of multinational corporations, large corporations, to pull their profits out of the country rather than invest them back in. Small business does not do that. Small business I would suggest is the way of the future, and it continues to reinvest in the country.

We as members of the House of Commons and as legislators for the country have to consider our future in looking at assistance for the small business community. This bill is the first step and the first step only in moving toward where we want to be with respect to small business in Canada and the assistance we should give it.

I look at the little we did get in the Estimates and in the budget, and again I have to wonder about the government's commitment to small business. As my friend in the Liberal Party has pointed out, there were \$13 million in cuts to management services in the Federal Business Development Bank last year, and in the Estimate we find \$18.5 million in further cuts projected for this year. We do not know yet exactly where those cuts are going to come within the Federal Business Development Bank, but any cuts to that area are direct cuts at and to the small business community.

I shake my head and I think maybe the minister and those across should do the same. Where are we going if we continue to cut out programs for a community that is going to create employment for the future of Canada? What are we doing? Why are we doing it? It seems to me and to those members in my party that if we are to encourage employment and a reasonable economy for the future, we have to encourage those who create the jobs and reinvest in Canada. That is reinvestment in the small business community.

I know that the Canadian Federation of Independent Business has a number of things that it would like to see done for the future for small business, including perhaps better loan guarantees, not necessarily anything dealing with grants to small business. I think that grants have a place. I do not think it is something to be encouraged. Certainly I think that grants to large corporations can well be cut out. If we are going to consider the grant system, the emphasis of those grants should be on the small business community.

It appears again that it is the small business community as opposed to the medium sized business community where the emphasis should be placed, because a flourishing small business community means a flourishing economy and hope for the younger generation for the future.