

Government Orders

concerns about rural Canada, their concerns about small business, and their concerns about the industries in this country. I really find it hard to believe, after listening to their concerns in Question Period or in speeches in the House, that they want to make sure that Canadians are working and they want to make sure we have a stable country. They will not even deal with the basic, fundamental problems in this country in duplication.

It is one thing to look at job creation, but it is another thing to sit down and look at what the NDP want to try to continue to do, which makes no sense whatsoever to anybody in small business. If they have to make two reports to file with two separate governments, it makes no sense whatsoever. That is the message we are receiving from the Canadian public, the fact that they want simpler guidelines, simpler rules, simpler opportunities so they can do business in a very competitive world.

I get quite frustrated when I sit here and listen on a day to day basis that they want to do something to get people working. Yet when the government moves forward with proposed legislation that will give the opportunity for all Canadians, all types of business, for a blended type of taxation that will take away some of the difficulties with which they face, they say the government is not listening to the provinces.

Over the last 20 months our officials have been travelling the country meeting with provincial counterparts, trying to work out an agreement that is going to be successful for everyone. I think that is what we are supposed to be doing in this country today. We are not supposed to be sitting back and fighting one another. We have a big world out there and we have to address the competitiveness and the opportunities that are afforded us. What we are trying to do with this piece of legislation is ensure that happens, that for a small Ma and Pa type of operation in Timiskaming or any other part of Canada, where they have a hard enough time to keep eating, we take away duplication for them.

I do not think we are asking too much. We are asking that the provinces put their political thought off to one side for a period of time and look at what is going to be the best for our country. That is what we have been trying to do over the past 20 months.

Similarly we hear on an ongoing basis that we should not be capping, or we should not be limiting the transfer of payments. The people I talk to are tired of seeing blank cheques handed out. They do not want to see blank cheques. They want to see government accountable for every dollar because there is only one taxpayer out there.

Someone living in my community says to me: "John, I have to pay provincial, federal, school board, and municipal tax". By the way, my constituents applauded the Minister of Finance on his last budget because he finally came out with a budget that is fair.

They are sitting back and saying right now: "What is going to happen in the province of Ontario in a matter of weeks?" We know there is a throne speech later on today. There will be pie in the sky. They will be turning around and blaming us, the federal government. But look back over the last seven years at the transfer payments we have sent to the province of Ontario. You start writing out cheques. My constituents believe there is sufficient money in the educational system, in the health care system, but what they do not want to see is the misuse of funds. We want to see accountability, that we are not just continuing to write out cheques.

It is the same thing when we are talking about taxation in regard to the GST. You would think from what we heard earlier there are no rebates at all for Canadians, that the government was only taxing more. On the weekend I was talking to an individual involved in trailer sales. He said: "John, it is the best thing that ever happened to my business. You know the parks that I have in place are worth \$1.5 million. I do not have 13 per cent tax on that any longer and you would not believe what that has done to my cash flow".

At the same time we are taking the tax from 13 per cent down to 7 per cent. You would almost think that we are not giving rebates, if you listen to what has taken place in this House. That is the problem we are facing in this country. Canadians want to know the truth. Canadians want to know. They are not looking for pie in the sky. They are interested in a government that recognizes and tries to deal with the problem. That is what we have been doing in the last seven years.