

The small businessman pays a disproportionate share of taxation to support a bureaucracy that saddles him with red tape, albeit he is in the poorest position to handle the problems. He collects sales taxes, income taxes, Canada pension plan payments and unemployment insurance. He does a host of other small jobs for the government which take a tremendous amount out of what he earns. The government does not even accept these payments in the form of a normal cheque, even though these companies have good credit reputations. The cheques have to be certified. Why does this government not understand that the small businessman of this country and his way of life are going to break down in this economy as we understand it unless he receives some consideration.

The small businessman is now forced to employ the services of a topflight accountant to keep up with his government bookkeeping when often, if not always, the volume of his business does not warrant his having one. On the other hand, the government refuses to deal with him on a businesslike basis as any other customer would and, as I stated, he is forced to pay his employees' income tax deductions by certified cheque. He is penalized if he is one day late in making his payment.

Unless steps are taken to free the independent man from the burden of bureaucracy he will be forced to sell out to the monopolies and a vital segment of the free enterprise way of life will be lost. There is not so much as one minor official in Ottawa to whom the retailer can turn for assistance. That is why I have fought each year I have been a member of this house for the creation of an office of ombudsman. At least then there would be someone to look after the rights of independent businessmen in a bureaucratic situation such as we have. If the independent businessman were a union man he could approach the Department of Labour, if he was a manufacturer he could turn to the Department of Industry or if he was an exporter he could turn to the Department of Trade and Commerce. Where does the independent retailer go?

This is one further example of inequitable tax policies and shortsighted planning, or lack of planning, that penalize the man who wants to express his individual enterprise and make his own way in the world; yet these are the very type of men who built this country and who gave western democracy the

leadership that has put its head and shoulders above the rest of the world. This is something we ought to be doing something about.

I mentioned these three points because I think they are important. I hope the legislation to be brought forth by the government during this session will deal with some of these problems. Let us stop kidding ourselves by thinking that we can get rid of our problems simply by pushing them further away. Let us face up to the reality that the government has the responsibility in this particular regard to do something about these things. If the government will take the lead I know that the members of the opposition will go along and do what is best for the people of Canada.

Mr. W. H. A. Thomas (Middlesex West): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the opportunity of making a few comments in this debate. I have listened with interest to the remarks of several preceding speakers, and particularly to the remarks of the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) in respect of which the hon. member for Red Deer (Mr. Thompson) offered some comment. I was very glad that hon. gentleman was able to bring forward the evidence he placed before the house in support of his description of the way in which the Conservative party has offered its co-operation to all other parties in this house in the promotion of forwarding government business. The party to which I have the honour of belonging has offered its full co-operation from the beginning of this session and throughout the last two sessions.

There has been a great deal of criticism across the country about the way the business of parliament has been conducted. There is a feeling among many of the electorate that there has been too much emphasis placed on partyism with a lack of emphasis on promoting the business of government.

In this regard I should like to say that we require political parties. They fit into our system of government. The business of the government party is to carry on the government business. The responsibility of opposition parties is to criticize constructively to the best of their ability those things the government is attempting to do. I am sure this has been done well. At times the criticism has been somewhat acrimonious on the part of both the former opposition and the