

are grain farmers; 15 per cent are cattle ranchers and 5 per cent of the operations are mixed. The average farm investment is approximately \$600,000.

The second main industry is the oil field servicing sector, maintaining fields lying to the west of Swift Current and running north and south of Gull Lake. The Dominion Agricultural Research Station in Swift Current is famous throughout the West for its research and development of varieties such as Leader Wheat, Wascana and Wakooma Durum and Rambler alfalfa.

The area is a hunter's paradise with literally thousands of hunters converging in the fall to hunt geese, chicken, pheasant, antelope and deer. Liberals are off-limits, having been declared an endangered species.

The riding contains a number of interesting sights such as the Great Sandhills, south of Sceptre the Prairie Wildlife Centre near Webb, the Grasslands National Park, which is an area east of Val Marie for which land is presently being assembled, the Frontier Days Rodeo in Swift Current, and Fort Walsh National Historic Park, which was home of the Royal Northwestern Mounted Police in the 1870s. Finally, there is Cypress Hills Provincial Park which rises out of the prairie south of Maple Creek to a pine covered bench land, which, at 4,560 feet, is the highest point in Saskatchewan. In fact, it is the highest point of land between the Rockies in Alberta and the Laurentians in Quebec. From this vantage point, I am pleased to note, there are no Liberals to be seen for 600 miles in either direction.

According to Statistics Canada, English is the mother tongue of 79 per cent of my constituents, German of 13 per cent and French of 3 per cent. Some 93 per cent of families are headed by two parents, and 78 per cent live in owner-occupied private homes. Swift Current-Maple Creek is a very stable and, if I may say, conservative area. The population turnover is quite low, and we have many three generation farmers and ranchers. The values are traditional. The people believe in God, home and the family. They are church-going people who love Canada.

They have been appalled for years by the state of affairs in this country. They despaired at the economic chaos and felt the disunity. They were saddened at the sight of region tearing at region and Canadian confronting Canadian. They felt sickened at government intervention in the market-place, oppressed at an unreasonable taxation system, and disappointed at the lack of regard for individual enterprise and initiative. They were astonished at incredible man-made disasters such as the national energy policy and the 1981 Budget. They welcome the new spirit of consultation and co-operation.

The spectre of capital gains tax hangs like a sword over the farm community. The farmer struggles for years to pay off his land, which is a non-depreciable asset but which is paid for out of after-tax dollars. The farmer's retirement is in his land. It is truly locked in the ground. Therefore, we have the sad plight of a man who works diligently for a lifetime, only to find that he cannot transfer title to his children for a reasonable sum

The Address—Mr. Wilson (Swift Current-Maple Creek)

without facing substantial income tax on the capital gain, which is nothing more than a tax on inflation.

The farm community is heartened to note that some interim relief is in sight. The first \$120,000 of taxable capital gains can be rolled into a Registered Retirement Savings Plan, effective January 1, 1984. I say that it is interim relief because we hope that in due course the parliamentary committee will see fit to recommend the elimination of capital gains altogether on agricultural land dispositions. The farmer is first entitled to this special consideration for he is a price taker who is subject to the vagaries of the world market at one end and yet unable to control many of his cost inputs at the other.

In many ways the small businessman is in similar circumstances. His retirement is tied up in inventory or company shares. He also feels threatened by capital gains and by the unnecessary complexity of the tax system. Facing a deluge of forms, questionnaires and surveys, even the smallest business must have extra staff to keep up with the paper work.

Small business will welcome the initiatives in simplifying the tax system and particularly in eliminating the cumulative deduction account. It is my further hope that some means may soon be found to eliminate or at least soften the impact of capital gains on the small business sector.

Earlier this year Canadians watched with interest the work of the PC tax task force, and they applaud the new Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Beatty) for listening and acting. All Canadians will welcome the introduction of legislation ensuring that no taxpayer need pay taxes in dispute before his case has been finalized.

As a new Member of Parliament who, according to the media, is far removed from the Cabinet and the decision-making process, I am pleased to say that I have had easy personal access to the Ministers and their staff and that the serious problems of my constituency receive a fair hearing. For example, I cite the legitimate concerns of the producers in the Hallonquist and McMahan areas over the possible loss of the Shamrock rail line. It is the same line which was to form part of the basic rail network as a result of the CTC decision of 1980 and thus be guaranteed to the year 2000. These are the same producers who were assured by the previous Minister of Transport that the necessary Order in Council would be passed to enshrine the CTC decision.

I am delighted to report that the new Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) moved quickly and responsibly on the request for the adjournment of the CTC abandonment hearing to allow fair notice and time to prepare and, most important, time for the Minister to study fully the whole question of rail line abandonment and rehabilitation, with particular reference to finding the most cost efficient transportation alternative.

During the past number of years, western Canadian grain producers have managed to cope with the cost-price squeeze through high sales volumes. The drought and consequent short crop have resulted in a desperate situation for many farmers and ranchers who are faced with ever higher input costs such as fuel, chemical, fertilizer, feed and carrying charges.