

which clusters together like a cancer choking into one or two small areas all the development that this country is planning.

So, Mr. Speaker, I applaud the government for this bill. I think it has the kind of potential which can do a great deal to encourage the thrust of the individual and to encourage small business development all across the country. But I ask that particular attention be paid to the fact that in the smaller communities the assistance of government will be needed even in terms of helping to make applications to this bank, and much work is needed in those small communities.

**Mr. Gordon Towers (Red Deer):** Mr. Speaker, since I am in a particularly benevolent mood tonight I do not propose to ridicule the minister primarily because of the fact that the motion originally was a Tory motion. However, I think we must bring the minister back into the realm of reality. I believe he must recognize that this bill will not carry him and the small business enterprises of Canada into Utopia. He must recognize that this bill does not provide a haven for defeated Liberal members of parliament. I hope the minister does not dishonour himself by appointing to the directorships and as members of the council those people who are not worthy of promotion.

● (2130)

Because of the fact that there is a great potential in this bill for the development of small businesses in Canada, we realize they are very dependent upon it. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Hees), my colleague, said that we will be watching the activity that takes place within the confines of this legislation. That is exactly right because many things can happen within the purview of this legislation that will not be to the benefit of small businesses, and if we hear any complaints from the government with regard to questions on the order paper, let me assure the minister that there will be further questions put on the order paper to ensure that this bill does what it is supposed to do.

Small businesses must make a profit and that "profit" should not be a dirty word in Canada, especially as it applies to small businesses. Also, we must understand that small businessmen must pay their costs, their outlays, their taxes and their interest before they can repay any principal on their debt. If the principal is not repaid, this legislation will not serve the function which it is meant to serve.

If this legislation is to do the job that it should do, the government must get off the back of small businesses. I emphasize that, and I hope the minister will go to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) as well as to his other colleagues in the cabinet with that message. Small businesses deal not only with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce but also with the Department of National Revenue, the Department of Finance, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion in some cases, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, the Department of National Health and Welfare, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Transport, Information Canada, and Statistics Canada.

#### *Federal Business Development Bank Act*

I should like to quote, in order that it may be on record, pertinent parts of speech by the chairman of the National Dairy Council of Canada. He has described very well what is happening in the dairy industry. I think that within the confines of the dairy industry there are more small businesses than in any other industry in Canada. This is what the chairman said:

Perhaps it is my closer affiliation with the affairs of the Council during this past year that has made me more aware of this growing involvement of government into the commercial life of our enterprises.

I don't intend to recite the innumerable problems and events that your council has faced on your behalf during the past year. You already know through your work on national committees, the resumé or the deluge of mail that you receive from our Ottawa office about the formidable task that, like some cancer, simply keeps on growing and growing.

You know, there is at least one fault that the president has learned from the government since he moved to Ottawa—how to produce a mountain of mail. As chairman, I receive copies of all correspondence coming out of our Ottawa office weekly. I really don't know how many thousands of letters a year are produced but a very large number are involved directly with the subject on which I want to devote a few minutes. I am speaking, of course, about this expanding government involvement in our enterprises and what we as Canadian corporate citizens should be doing about it.

Then he went on to say:

Listen to this—here is a partial list of new intrusions by our benevolent federal benefactors:

It is too bad that the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) is not here to hear this.

Moisture content of cheese; fat content of butter and cheese; fat content on ice cream and frozen desserts; fat content on yogurt and cottage cheese; generic classification of cheeses; recall code procedure; companies act; competition bill; Environment Canada regulations; termination of the fluid milk subsidy; enlargement and extension of milk powder subsidy; Maple Leaf grade symbol; increase in support price for butter and powder; maximum coliform content for cheeses; preparation of brief for GATT; preparation of brief for Food Prices Review Board; report on the dairy industry by Dr. McFarlane; regulations for partially skimmed milk; seminar on the dairy industry held by FPRB; and emphasis on violations under Weights and Measures Act—

Remember that your compliance with most government programs generally adds to your cost of doing business. In addition, each new government act generally requires more staff to administer—staff means money—money spent by government means higher taxes on your business or you personally.

Talk to any of these small business operators and they will tell you that 10 per cent to 15 per cent of their office staff's time is taken up with filling government forms and filing them. The chairman went on to say:

There doesn't seem to be anyone in Canada in charge of co-ordinating the overall federal government's concern and intervention in our industry. We've had Agriculture Canada, National Health and Welfare, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Statistics Canada, weights and measures, Environment Canada, the dairy branch, the Canadian Dairy Commission, food additives, etc., all get into the act and talk about developing more rules and regulations for our industry during this past year.

Has anyone tried to assess the cost of complying with all the federal regulations being talked about? I am sure they haven't—

Has the consumer ever been informed of how much this information is going to cost her totally and is she willing to pay? We know through research done at Rutgers and Penn. State Universities that date coding of milk alone will add up to 1 cent a quart to the total cost.

Is the information meaningful and relevant? How often does a consumer ever get a quart of sour milk today? Is it really necessary to add 1 cent a quart to all the milk sold in Canada just to minimize the