



CANADA

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## BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

*The following is part of the text of a recent address by Mr. Robert H. Winters, the newly appointed Minister of Trade and Commerce, to the Board of Trade of metropolitan Toronto:*

...This is an age of large-scale organization. Big labour, big business and big government each play a major role in our economy. Their decisions exert a powerful influence on our prosperity and development. It is, therefore, of prime importance that each should have a full understanding of the other's objectives and problems....

The United States has been more successful than we in using talents of businessmen in government. In part, this is attributable to the nature of their system, which is different from ours. I should like to see avenues developed and strengthened whereby the Canadian Government can bring into play more effectively the services of competent people from all segments of our society. Many U.S. companies encourage their employees to participate in public life by supporting political parties or even to seek election. Labour unions do so in Canada with vigour and some success, but the same emphasis does not often come from management. Perhaps more companies should think about this.

### PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

I have often expressed the opinion that it is the role of the Government to create a salubrious climate within which dynamic and efficient private enterprise can operate with increasing productivity, under the stimulus of the profit motive. This is the essence of our economic system, from which must flow the revenues required in increasing degree for the welfare

and betterment of all our citizens. Consistent with the discharge of the Government's other basic responsibilities to the community, this conception contemplates the greatest possible freedom from government interference.

It is one of the fears of business that government is bent upon invading its domain more and more, and I am bound to say there is some evidence to support such apprehension. On the other hand, it must be recognized that in this complex and changing age, more and more is being asked of government by different groups and interests. It is a little early for me to say what this Government may wish to do or not to do in its relations with the business community. My own philosophy, however, is that the more good decisions made in boardrooms, on the factory floor and across the negotiating table, the fewer will have to be made in Cabinet chambers. To the extent that the public mind is convinced of the basic strength and purpose of present-day private enterprise and its concern for the welfare of the community as a whole, there will be less call for measures which restrict or regulate....

### CANADA'S STRENGTH

I believe that the business community — management and labour — that thinks in terms of economic opportunities has more faith in the strength and future of our country than have many politicians and journalists. It would be useful if the business community would express itself more frequently on the merits of a cohesive and strong Canada. So should others of similar view. Let us have debate, but let it have more substance and balance.