

Mr. Speaker, we are now witnessing the collapse of the small and the medium-sized companies. Among the latter, some are no longer able to survive, because they have too many debts, they are over-taxed and they are not allowed to sell shares to finance themselves. They must borrow needed capital and those loans must be paid back, at which time they are said to be profits. So, they have to pay taxes on reimbursements, contrary to the big corporation which never has any reimbursements to make. The big corporation will win out in competition with the small company because it will have every facility to obtain capital, by taking it away from the small companies already in need of it.

I am not dead against the establishment by the government of this corporation which should be an agency with new capital to be used only for new ventures. For the good of the people these new investments should be made available to institutions at administrative costs. This would bring prices down and we would have corporations able to produce and compete with any other country in the world. However, these big corporations should only produce goods that small companies cannot produce, because it is too hard for them. There would then be one or more different corporations, and all current capital or savings would be left to the small and medium enterprises.

The federal and provincial governments, or at least several of them, have set up similar corporations that wheedle what little savings there are, thus depriving those who need that money. That is why we are witnessing the disappearance of small and medium industries: they cannot find the capital they need.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens prefer buying shares in government organizations rather than private industry, because they have more guarantees. Indeed, the state centralizes, takes over control, and causes the small industry to disappear, although it too has the right to exist.

Since the corporation will be used to draw all existing capital and take it away from small concerns, we will have to vote against the creation of that huge state corporation which will gain control, even if it is said that it will finance private enterprise or help firms already in existence. However, the companies which the government wishes to assist have the means to find capital through the issuance of shares and bonds, while small concerns are unable to get listed on the Stock Exchange.

In the province of Quebec for instance, since the Bombardier Company has become powerful enough to become a member of the Stock Exchange, its problems are over as it can do anything. No company of that kind experiences financial problems. Therefore why set up corporations to finance such businesses that have no financial problems? People who really want to help others help those who are in need not those who are well off.

Small businesses are the ones in need. To be logical, they are the ones the government should help. It should guarantee to those businesses the purchase or sale of their production. If the government did that, we would get all

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the necessary production out of the small and medium-sized businesses.

Now there is a lack of balance, jugglings, bankruptcies of all kinds, small and medium-sized businesses are vanishing because they have to deal with the victims of a system they are unable to pay.

A good number of citizens are unable to pay. So they buy without paying and they go bankrupt. Therefore industry has to put up with all those losses. It is a victim of the system.

The government must give industrialists the guarantee that there will not be any more victims of that kind, it must guarantee the pay the same way it guarantees exports, which would enable the industries to operate. Should production be needed, the only thing to do would be to specify the kind of products we want as the industry is organized.

We have all the technology we need to enable those businesses to operate and the state is there also to provide that technology. If we have too little of it in Canada, we have as neighbours the United States, which have at their disposal numerous technical resources on which we can rely at any time.

If we are short of it, we can import technical capital from the United States, to help us develop our industries. But we are not short of it, for we have at hand all the products we need in Canada. We have all the engineers, technological data, labour force and means of transportation that we need. We are only short of capital funds and we should avoid making them available to large centralized industries.

Such centralization leads to socialism and to the elimination of small businesses. None of our large state undertakings are able to produce at the same cost as private enterprise. Experience teaches us that public enterprise costs much more than private enterprise, since people do not assume the same responsibilities in one or the other.

In private enterprise, people take their responsibilities more seriously, whereas, in public enterprise, they could not care less. And when repairs call for shut-downs, the doors are simply shut down until completion, which means that production suffers and the cost of the products increases. I do not believe that the minister can convince us that public enterprise is in a position to manufacture products at a cost as low as that achieved by private enterprise.

The large private firm can do better than its public counterpart. There are small and large private firms and we should—and this must be sacred—first, help the small firm by all means available. If the funds available for the establishment of large corporations designed to increase production were allocated to the private sector, the results would be ten times better. It has been said that this will not be a state enterprise but a private firm; we shall begin by helping corporations which can fend for themselves and which need no help to prosper. After that, we will look after state enterprises because, owing to taxes and levies, no private firm can succeed in reim-