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# Chief Government Whip Says Tax Changes Mean Destruction

(Continued from Page 1)

It should also be remembered that big business needs small businesses. For example, Canadian General Electric depends on thousands of small suppliers because they can produce components more efficiently and economically than could the larger company. If suppliers are forced to raise prices to meet higher taxes, large companies too will be forced to raise their prices. Will they be able to compete against foreign imports, let alone export their products at a competitive price? If a number of these suppliers are forced out of business—and I submit, Mr. Speaker, that implementation of the White Paper proposals could do just that—then the large companies would be in a very awkward position indeed.

Proponents of the White Paper claim that gross tax abuses have taken place, that some businessmen have split their enterprises into smaller units in order to pay lower taxes. I do not doubt that is true, Mr. Speaker, but surely Ottawa can find a way of dumping out the dirty bath water without throwing out the baby too! Small businesses have to finance their inventories, equipment and accounts receivable out of the present taxing arrangement. The White Paper proposals will be a serious blow to their operations.

Mr. Speaker, why place small business in the same category as big business? Small businesses are not dealing in millions of dollars and should not be treated the same as the Royal Bank, General Motors, General Foods, Canadian General Electric or Dominion Stores. They do not try to borrow \$40 million or \$50 million at a prime rate. Of course, the larger companies are better risks and are deserving a better rate, and banks and lending agencies are naturally going to treat small businesses differently. But to tax a small business on the same basis as a large corporation, probably with profits running into the millions, is iniquitous!

Fifty percent on \$50 million leaves some working capital, but when you cut deeply into the profit of the small company—which is probably under-capitalized—severe taxation may very well be mortal.

Why remove the protection in Canada that is still available in the United States? Why not allow a little company to gain some financial strength—financial strength in an era of tight money and very high interest rates? What is badly needed, Mr. Speaker, for small business, if it is to survive—is some relief, not a heavier tax burden.

Mr. Benson claims that the letters he has been receiving have been running in favor of his proposals. I suggest that he does not read those which attack his proposals.

To reduce taxes for nearly 4,000,000 taxpayers should certainly win some favor for him, but did Mr. Benson read an interview with a businessman in the Winnipeg Free Press of November 8—which charged that Mr. Benson has ignored a risk factor in small, private enterprises, and that "the small businessman is being shot down in flames"?

Did he read another report in the same paper saying:

"I am not very happy with that corporation tax. A little guy like me, earning just a little bit every year, and I am going to turn over 50 percent of that to Ottawa. Not bloody likely!"

"There just will not be any profit in future years. There just will not be any corporation tax from my firm."

That is the quotation. Did Mr. Benson read the views of one writer in the Financial Post, on November 15, who said: "The elimination of corporation tax at 21 percent up to \$35,000 is unfair."

"A man who risks building a corporation from nothing will have no initial advantage over a civil servant with a fat pension, nor over any wage-earner."

Did Mr. Benson read, in the Globe and Mail of November 20, where Premier Ross Thatcher of Saskatchewan bluntly condemned Ottawa's proposals as the death knell for the backbone of prairie economy—small business and mineral development?

But now, at long last, the "silent majority", as President Nixon would say, in this case the long suffering small businessmen of this nation are beginning to react. I hope their voices will be united in one long swelling cry of outrage and protest.

For example, in "Perspective—a Business Forum" in the financial pages of the Telegram of November 27, there was a story about a new group that has been formed. Under the title "Small Businessmen to Fight Tax Plan," one article read:

Small businessmen in Canada are beginning to react, some of them violently, to the federal government's White Paper On Taxation.

They are dismayed by many of the proposals of the White Paper, particularly the one to raise the present low rate of tax on the first \$35,000 of taxable income. They are also dismayed by the innumerable questions that they feel the White Paper leaves unanswered, and by the undetermined but possible ill-effects its proposals may have on them in the future.

Another example was a Don Mills advertising agency, Campbell, Campbell and Mitchener, which has launched a new ad campaign against Finance Minister Benson's proposals for taxing small businesses.

One ad pictures a ghost—the White Paper On Taxation.

Yes; it is handing a stone to a small baby—the small baby being the small businessman. The caption reads: "When asked for bread, what father would give his son a stone?"

The next ad shows a giant bureaucrat—this time, again, the White Paper—reaching for a trembling small businessman. And the caption reads: "Fe, fi, fo, fum; I smell the blood of a small businessman."

Now a group of small businessmen which includes J. O. Hull of Public Relations Services Limited—John F. Bulloch, John Bulloch Limited; D. L. Savage, Savage Sloan Limited; and Ken Campbell of Campbell, Campbell and Mitchener Limited have been sufficiently roused to form the Canadian Council for Fair Taxation, a non-profit organization to provide leadership for small businessmen right across Canada in fighting the White Paper proposals.

I can only wish them success! It is high time that someone had the guts to begin and to bring the small businessmen together so that for once they can protest with a united voice!

I share the fears expressed in the actions of all these gentlemen. But did Mr. Benson, I wonder, merely shrug off the formation of this Canadian Council for Fair Taxation with some glib quip similar to the one he reportedly made about a Canadian being able to live on \$30 a week?

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt about it, the businessman is being taken and he is mad! Up to now, the small businessman has struggled along, paying more than his way and putting up with all kinds of injustices. Now he is to be taxed right out of his shoes—indeed he will be lucky if he still owns a pair of shoes when Benson gets through with him.

He has been a collection agency for government, including the Ontario Hospital Services Commission, Ontario Health Services, unemployment insurance, Canada Pension Plan and numerous other

chore, including various sales taxes. At his expense, he had to work for the government and employ additional bookkeepers and equipment.

Mr. Benson has given businessmen a real issue and they are no longer going to submit weakly. I ask: why cannot Benson be honest? Why does he not admit his proposals are not genuine tax reform but simply a significant step forward toward killing off free enterprise and turning Canada into a totally socialist state with the federal government as its "big brother"?

The small businessman has been a good corporate citizen, a major force behind every community improvement effort. Now he has "had it".

Abraham Lincoln once said, "You can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time; but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." Well, Benson may be fooling a lot of the people all the time, but the small businessmen of this country are not among them. They are going to demand that Benson call his White Paper by its right name—out and out socialism!

Now the small businessmen of Canada are going to stand up and be counted. They are not, as the socialists would like to have the public believe, against helping those who need help. They have always been in favor of helping the unemployed.

They have always supported those who cannot work and those who were sick.

We live in a country where men and women have traditionally had the opportunity to reach the pinnacle of their chosen endeavors.

They were limited only by their own initiative. Mr. Benson's objective appears to be to make it much tougher for them to do this. He is not only hitting small business but putting a heavier income tax burden on the very individuals who have initiative, energy and imagination—the very qualities most needed to make Canada a greater country.

One newspaper recently reported that Edgar Benson did not think tax increases would destroy initiative. Could anyone seriously believe that his tax proposals will not kill initiative?

Who is going to work 60 or 70 hours a week to build a small business if he gets no extra benefit from his efforts?

Only last week, one man told me he would close up his plant, where he employed 50 to 60 people.

He will not have the worry or the headaches or the heartaches that go with running one's own business. Why should he bother with all the problems if the government is going to confiscate his money on the pretext it can spend it more wisely than he? I doubt that.

Is the businessman not entitled to some consideration for the risks he takes, for the long hours, effort and creativity which ultimately benefit the whole community and the whole country?

I well remember one restaurateur who worked the clock around. If he or his wife were not on duty, his son and daughter were. For what? To fulfill the dream of being self-employed? Yes, but more than that, he did not expect something for nothing. He and his whole family were willing to work hard for it.

Last week, I also met a young fellow who had launched an advertising business three years ago. He was willing to sacrifice for his future. In fact, he lived on exactly \$30 a week to give his company a chance to grow. Another young man in the electronics field told me he worked regularly until 2:00 or 3:00 o'clock in the morning to make his young, growing business successful.

All of these people appreciate

what they have earned by their own hard work and appreciate the value of achievement. Why should this kind of initiative, this energy, be destroyed? Why destroy the small businessman who is willing to work longer and harder than most people? Why make it necessary for him to merge with another company, or a larger company, in order to exist?

Does Mr. Benson believe that he can spend money for social benefits better than the small decent businessman who is usually vitally concerned with the welfare of his employees, in a very personal way? If the purpose of increased taxation is to help the masses, Mr. Benson ought to know that the masses are composed of many individuals.

I suggest that the average small businessman is infinitely more concerned about his employees as individuals, than Mr. Benson will ever be. Large companies cannot know their employees and their problems intimately. Large unions do not seem to care about their members as individuals. If an employee refuses to join a union, he either falls into line or he has no job. For instance, three employees of a Burlington plant refused to pay union dues and they were fired after six to ten years of service.

They had disagreed with the idea of socialism to which the union was committed.

The small businessman will usually go out of his way to protect his employees. He, indeed, has a heart and a soul, a compassion, an understanding.

Last week a businessman employing some 50 people told me about one of his employees who died suddenly at the age of 40 leaving a wife and three youngsters, the youngest of whom was eight.

That fellow is personally going to look after that family and help to finance it until the youngest is 21. Here is a man with a strong sense of moral responsibility, and he is not going to the government for help.

There is another case here, of a small businessman whose driver was involved in four accidents within a year. His interested boss found out that this man had a medical problem behind his driving difficulties, so the man was kept on the payroll although no longer able to drive. Indeed, when it was necessary for him to go out on a call, someone else went along with the driver and did the driving. Thus, it was uneconomical and bad business practice, but another case of heart prevailing over sound business judgment. But small businessmen are usually more genuinely interested and vitally concerned with their employees.

Mr. Speaker, why is Benson against the small Canadian businessman? He is certainly not for him. Has he forgotten that most small businesses in Canada are owned by Canadians?

Why then does he not encourage the right climate for small businessmen to grow, according to their own initiative and ingenuity? Why is government always taking?

Why, Mr. Speaker, does not Mr. Benson encourage the right climate for small businessmen to grow according to their own initiative and ingenuity?

Forcing small Canadian businessmen to curtail their profits through brutal taxation, rather than allowing them some money to put toward expanding their businesses, weakening them to such an extent that, eventually, they will go into bankruptcy or be bought out by larger businesses.

They will go into bankruptcy—I say there is no question about it—or perhaps they will be bought out by larger companies or American businesses. To me, this is asinine and totally incomprehensible. Let me remind Mr. Benson that small businesses do not have

the evils of the conglomerate or a monopoly business.

Stiff competition between small businesses often gives the consumer better value for his money. Small businesses often provide specialty products or services which benefit the community and which are not provided by larger concerns because they do not represent a mass market. Most small businesses have a community spirit. They provide that personal touch which still gives them at least some advantage over the large supermarket.

I suggest that, today, quality is not necessarily synonymous with size, and that there is still a rightful place in the market for small businesses. By nature, the small businessmen are active and involved in community projects; and it is no exaggeration to say that this country would not, and cannot, exist without them.

The small businessman is generally a man who fulfills a dream he has carried in his heart of being his own boss, and he thereby creates jobs for other people. How many small businessmen today, struggling to make their businesses grow, willing to accept all the vagaries and risks of the marketplace, will not throw in the sponge in hopeless frustration because of Mr. Benson?

How many young men who might have set up their own small businesses, tomorrow or next week, will not throw up their hands in disgust?

I suggest that Mr. Benson's White Paper is like an iceberg. What shows is menacing and frightening enough; but what is hidden beneath the glossy surface of his smoothly presented proposals is infinitely more dangerous.

I suggest Benson's proposals will in no way upgrade people in this country. By destroying the backbone of Canada—the small business—he will wind up putting an untold number of Canadians out of jobs. In effect, he may destroy all of the qualities which have made this country great, and which are so badly needed to make it greater still.

I agree with the Winnipeg lawyer, I. H. Asper, writing in the Globe and Mail Report on Business of November 27.

Mr. Asper said that most commentators have reached agreement on several fundamental aspects of the White Paper. That it is not tax reform; that it is social reform. That the word "reform" is a euphemism for "tax rise", that, if adopted in its present form, it will have a profound effect on economic growth, investment patterns, work incentives and risk-taking in certain areas. That last year's estate and gift tax escalation was only the first ingredient and the White Paper represents the second. But there is more, much more to come.

In other words, Mr. Benson is by no means through with any of us. Lord help the small businessman. Lord help the middle income man who is vital to the future growth of our country.

We are well on our way already to becoming a completely socialist state. There is no question in my mind that it is Mr. Benson's intention to speed that process. A socialist state—with all its apathy, paternalism, and real danger to the democratic traditions we have always valued. Mr. Speaker, I believe that what is really at stake here lies in what is not said in the White Paper.

This is the choice that Canadians must make: Is this country to continue as a nation of free people, dedicated to the worth of the individual and the individual's right to achieve through his own efforts and dedication? Or are we going to allow government to become so big and powerful that one day we become a nation of robots responding to the commands of a "big brother" in Ottawa?

(Continued from Page 2)

sentiments of Edith Windsor. Edith is the wife of Ed Windsor, coach of the Thornhill Peewees.

Manager Bill Sim of the bantams would like to see Thornhill make plans for its own arena. "We're paying out too much money for ice time."

"I'd like to see the midgets win the Ontario Championship," said Manager Ed Ast. "Would also be wonderful if the current high interest rates came down."

Ken MacCallum, manager of the juveniles would like to see greater participation of parents in all phases of their children's activities.

Stella Davidson who reports for the Thornhill Mustangs would like to see the Mustangs break the jinx that has been keeping them from winning. Not so many hockey injuries either. She wishes good health and a Happy New Year to all. Stella Davidson is wife of Norm Davidson, manager of the Mustangs.

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**PEACE AND OTHER THINGS**

Daily conversation with people reveal the fervent wishes they have for the future. Sometimes the authors cannot be recalled but the words they speak reveal the nitty-gritty of their feelings. Things that people want in general is immediate action on such problems as inflation, pollution, the illegal drugs, high costs related to food and housing, a more efficient medicare and a more sane approach to the unrealistic salaries of our educationists, politicians and other bureaucratic elite.

Mrs. Heidi Voerkerth would dearly like to see the resolution of all world conflict and that the public be more and more aware of this necessity.

Another Thornhill lady, a longtime resident, said, "People are always complaining. We should stop finding so much fault and learn to be thankful for the things we already have."

So perhaps Rochefoucauld had a point when he said "If we have not peace within ourselves, it is vain to seek it from outward sources."

HAPPY NEW YEAR

# Nanaimo Mayor Deplores Canada's Drift Towards State Socialism

Mayor Frank Ney of Nanaimo on Vancouver Island came out swinging last week against the Liberal administration of Pierre Elliott Trudeau, saying Canada could become an "ism" country instead of a democracy.

Mayor Ney, Social Credit MLA-elect for Nanaimo-Cowichan - The Islands, touched on a variety of topics after opening an interview by saying he agreed with the mayor of Kamloops, B.C., regarding the importation of television programs from the United States.

Kamloops Mayor Peter Wing, in a letter to the Canadian Radio - Television Commission, said the CRTC decision to deny cablevision to interior points showed confusion as to the needs and expectations of the citizens of Canada.

Mayor Ney commented: "I feel that we cannot dissociate ourselves from communications with the U.S. A breakdown in communication in that direction is something we cannot afford. They are our nearest friends and allies."

He said the only reason he could see that there had not been a louder wave of protest against the CRTC report on cablevision is that the country as a whole is "being stunned by the things coming out of Ottawa of late."

Man's political philosophy (Trudeau) is being imposed on the entire country — the Queen's head is being taken off our stamps and dollar bills, the Queen's Guards of Parliament of the armed forces are being cut, while non-essential building and entrepreneurship that is going on in Ottawa will be like the \$46,000,000 arts centre, to push ahead to one of the "Finally, we see the hand of highest living standards in the Fabian Socialism in the propos-world."

als of the white paper on taxation," he said. "Many people are beginning to realize what is happening. Many believe the federal government's policies on taxation may actually break the sinews of this free enterprise economy, destroying all the traditions cut, while non-essential building and entrepreneurship that is going on in Ottawa will be like the \$46,000,000 arts centre, to push ahead to one of the "Finally, we see the hand of highest living standards in the Fabian Socialism in the propos-world."

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# Rambling Around

(Continued from Page 2)

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