

Job creation not govt. business

Question: What is the primary function of government in Canada? Ask our politicians or most voters and the answer is: Creation of jobs. In Ontario's recent election, each party promised that new jobs would flow like manna from the heavens. We are promised that the upcoming federal budget will produce even more jobs.

But to use a favorite phrase of my father: Who came down from Mount Sinai and said that governments had to create jobs? Indeed, we should also be asking, can and should democratic governments be in this business at all?

Here in Canada we have been brainwashed by 16 years of Trudeau socialism into meekly accepting the notion that jobs are a product of government action. Try to find a politician anywhere who would dare deny this Marxist credo.

In socialist nations, governments do produce jobs through their ownership of industry; and they also produce tatty, impoverished countries like Romania and Poland. Most socialist job creation is merely disguised featherbedding.

Our government, in my view, has no business at all creating jobs. Every time Ottawa or the provinces have tried to do so, we ended up with lumbering monsters like Canada Post or Canadair. Anyone who thinks that our post office exists to deliver mail is a deluded innocent. Canada Post is used by the government as a giant job farm to reward small fry supporters and absorb unemployed. Delivering mail is only an afterthought.

Small wonder that we have mail service that would shame any other civilized nation. And small wonder again that inside workers do their sorting with all

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the enthusiasm of convicts in the Soviet gulag. They have been nurtured by our left-liberals on the belief that such jobs are God-given rights; having the job is enough, you don't really have to work at it.

Those who want government to create more jobs can expect more Canada Posts, bigger deficits and more inflation. It's time we got away from this kind of discredited socialist thinking and faced reality.

The real business of government is not to create jobs but to create the proper climate in which jobs can flourish. This means ensuring national and public security; maintaining infrastructure of roads, communications and the like; and providing a dependable, solid monetary system.

Over the past 16 years, our governments have provided infrastructure but have failed in other respects. We have no national defences at all. Our monetary system has been thoroughly debauched by unscrupulous politicians. Just look at the current value of the once-proud Canadian dollar. Governments have created inflation and economic uncertainty.

By everywhere intervening in the economy, governments have not only failed to create jobs but have actually fostered unemployment. How? By creating

inefficient, protected industries producing shoddy goods; by making unions too powerful; by promoting speculation rather than investment; and by taxing away creativity in business.

Before 1968, when Trudeau began massive government intervention in our economy, unemployment stood at 351,000; today it is over 1.4 million. Purchasing power of the dollar has dropped by 69%. Monthly housing payments have soared 380%. Postage is up more than 450%, the deficit by 800%. Numbers of bureaucrats are up 39%, soldiers down 15% and bankruptcies up 315%.

Do we need any more data to realize that government intervention has been the problem, not the cure? After 16 years of "job creation" we are in an economic mess. Yet our politicians, the media, our adulated churchmen — everyone calls for yet more government action.

The answer is, of course, to get government out of the economy; to cut taxes; to reduce crushing over-regulation; to cut deficits, and thus inflation, by cutting government spending. In short, to begin dismantling the enormous, deadweight socialist superstructure that keeps our economy mired in recession and decay. Canadian investment money is still pouring into the USA precisely because its climate favors growth. Money is leaving Canada because our climate stifles enterprise.

When will we see a politician with the guts and honesty to admit these facts and tell the voters that big government has no business running business, that Ottawa can't create jobs any more than it can create love, art or happiness? It can only create the right environment — and thus by leaving the economy alone.