

*Government Orders*

dollar of revenue coming in to Ottawa goes to pay interest on that debt.

The old ways of doing it do not work. We have proven that. The only way we are going to move beyond where we presently are to a healthier Canadian economy is by doing the things Canadian people are demanding of us. They are telling the government: do not borrow any more, accept reality and move on from where you are.

Some of what the minister announced yesterday will do that. We have to remember there are 950,000 small businesses in Canada. We have taken the route of increasing the ceiling on loans through the Small Business Loans Act. We have gone from \$50,000 announced earlier this year to \$200,000 and now we have increased that to \$250,000.

The encouraging thing I find in that announcement, among others, is the fact for the first time small businesses can use that \$250,000 for operating capital, obviously with some restrictions.

In the past we could only use that \$200,000 which used to be only \$50,000 and is now \$250,000, for the purchase of machinery or capital investments.

That is encouraging. Another of the things the minister mentioned yesterday is he is going to put some pressure on the banks to achieve this. Many of my constituents, and I am sure this is the same on both sides of the House, have gone to the banks to trigger that small business loan only to find out the banks were not there to do business with them. They either knew little about it or could not care less about it.

The minister has told us publicly and privately he is going to do all he can to make sure the banks respond to this. That will be encouraging to every one of those 950,000 small businesses out there.

The RRSP home buyers' plan is going to be extended. That has been a phenomenal success throughout the country, particularly in my home province of New Brunswick.

We also had the announcement yesterday by the finance minister of the government's commitment to highway building in the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia to the tune of \$200 million. That is something we have been working on for a long time in the province of New Brunswick because our highways are inadequate, particularly the trans-Canada highway. That is good news for the province of New Brunswick.

Question Period today seemed to focus on the changes to the Unemployment Insurance Act. I want to explain that because it is very important the Canadian people understand what is happening. The minister did a good job today in Question Period responding to some of those questions. We have to continue to clarify what is happening there.

One change to the Unemployment Insurance Act is simply that individuals who voluntarily leave their jobs will no longer be eligible for unemployment insurance premiums. It is important to point out that we are not talking about people who leave their jobs for a particular legitimate reason. We still recognize those legitimate reasons but only legitimate reasons.

I could go through the act and I think I will so that people can understand clearly that we are not changing it. I brought a copy of the act with me so that we could step through section 4 of the UI act in particular. It clearly states the reasons individuals can leave their jobs or places of employment and still be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. It is very clear in that regard. I wanted to point this out simply because the reasons that were brought out in Question Period today have no legitimacy at all.

Some of the comments that were made in reference to sexual harassment were inaccurate. That has not changed. If anyone is being sexual harassed on the job it is a legitimate reason to leave the job. Any changes brought in yesterday do not change that. In other words, sexual or other harassment as identified and stated in the act are legitimate reasons. The obligation to accompany a spouse or dependent child to another residence is also a legitimate reason to leave, or discrimination on a prohibited ground of discrimination within the meaning of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

It is important to put that on record. I do not want people misunderstanding what happened yesterday in the House. It is very clear that some people are attempting to make political hay of the issue but let us not be fooled by it.

There are other areas we have to talk about as well in terms of government expenses. All government operating budgets will be reduced by 3 per cent in 1993-94. Average unemployment insurance benefits will be frozen. Grants and subsidies to most organizations and interest groups will be cut by 10 per cent in each of the next two years.