

medium size enterprises and improve financing options for small business. That one is rather interesting, Mr. Speaker, in view of the amendments we have to the Bill today. I would like to know from the Government how reducing the component from 100 per cent to 90 per cent is going to satisfy the promise of improved financing options for small businesses. Obviously it is not going to do that, it will do the opposite.

Would you believe it, Mr. Speaker, the Conservatives are going to actually break a promise. This is the first time it has happened in the last 15 minutes. It is something like breaking patronage appointment promises. They are known to have done that once or twice in the last 24 hours. Once or twice every day since they were elected, in fact.

However, let us follow through on more promises. I notice I am starting to wake up some of the Tory back-benchers and the book-ends. That is a good thing. Let us review some more promises. This seems to be grabbing the attention of some Conservative Members.

An Hon. Member: Stick to the Bill.

Mr. Boudria: Well, we are discussing small business and this Government's commitment to small business. Maybe the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Wise) and others are not interested in the commitments they made to small business, but I am. The small business community of this country is interested in their promises, especially the ones which have not yet been fulfilled. That is to say, exactly 100 per cent of the promises to small business have not been fulfilled. Let me continue.

They said—"they" being the Conservative Party, which I am sure you will recognize, Mr. Speaker, being the non-partisan person you are—they would increase the amount of management assistance to small businesses through such vehicles as the Counselling Assistance to Small Enterprise programs. In other words, the CASE program. What is going to happen with that program? What will happen when this Government abolishes the Small Business Development Bank, as we know it is proposing to do? That is no secret. We know the Tories want to abolish the SBDB. We know this is another promise that will be broken again. That is two promises they have broken in about 30 seconds. They do not have a very good batting average, you must admit.

They said they were going to broaden and better define the role of the federal Government to lending institutions, to augment and complement the role of private financial institutions serving small businesses. What are they augmenting? Since when does reducing from 100 per cent to 90 per cent augment anything? Would you believe it, Mr. Speaker, they have again broken another promise to the Canadian people. It is a very sad state when we have a government which is really not interested in observing the commitments it made. But we have to enumerate these promises to the people. They need to be reminded of the broken promises of this Government. I see this is waking up some of the Members across the way again.

Mr. Gormley: You are reminding them of why they voted you out.

Small Businesses Loans Act

Mr. Boudria: Listen to this promise: to facilitate the introduction and adaptation of new technology and encourage the spread of technical knowledge in businesses through adequate information and training programs and so forth. Well, I think it is about time we looked at the Government's cut-back book to see what it has done to fulfil that particular promise to small business. I venture to bet we are going to have another broken promise very shortly.

Let us look now at a \$4.4 million cut-back in research and technology. Would you believe it?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, this Government, which has just promised us it is going to help small business, has just cut \$4.4 billion from the research, science and technology program and a program that was providing support for research projects by small businesses. It is hard to believe that the Government has once again broken a solemn commitment, a sacred trust as a well-known Progressive Conservative has been heard to say. It is hard to believe this could happen and that this Government could renege on its commitment.

I have here a document from the Prime Minister's Office which contains the reply Ministers were supposed to provide in response to the budget cuts announced on November 8. Somebody drafted some nice little replies, so that when a certain question is put to a Minister, all he has to do is consult this document. The paper is called "Announcement of expenditure reductions", Ministers' document, secret, and so forth. This document was prepared by the Prime Minister's Office and provided to Members of Cabinet so they would know what to say.

It is important that the Ministers should know what to say, Mr. Speaker, or more important still, what to read when they do not know what to say. The Minister opposite seems a bit concerned, but I must tell him that he himself has no cause for concern, because he was expected to say nothing. The document makes no reference to that, so it is clear the Minister was expected to say nothing on that.

But I would like to refer to the next matter. Here is a question, a "potential" question that a reporter was supposed to ask the Minister. "With the increase in fees for small inventors' patents, are these people expected to disappear?" The minister is supposed to answer this: "No, the fees will be significantly reduced in some cases". And then: "How much will be the increase?" Then the Minister would answer: "The increase will be from \$550 to \$4,000. This is a Conservative bargain for small businesses. Patent costs will be increased to \$4,000 from \$550 to \$4,000." I wonder how the Minister (Small Businesses) could explain this bargain which he is offering the small entrepreneur who wants to register a patent. I am anxious to hear his answer.

● (1250)

An Hon. Member: You will not have to wait for 20 years!