

## S.O. 21

I have said this, to put it all into perspective and to lead up to the main point of my remarks. It is the job of Parliamentarians to watch the Orders in Council that come out, the regulations and the definitions. That is how these weasels who draft these things put them in front of a busy Minister, slide them through the cabinet committee and then they are published in the *Gazette* and become law. When that happens, Parliamentarians never see it and we do not know for a year or so what has happened until we begin hearing complaints. Could I call it 1.30?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest):** It now being 1.27 p.m., we will now adjourn until two o'clock p.m. When we resume Orders of the Day after three o'clock, the Hon. Member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton) will have the floor.

At 1.27 p.m. the House took recess.

## AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

## STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

## ATLANTIC ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

## CRITICISM OF PROVISIONS

**Mr. George Henderson (Egmont):** Mr. Speaker, the Atlantic Enterprise Program announced in last week's Budget is nothing more than a political program. It is not designed to start up a new string of small businesses in Atlantic Canada. It will do nothing but fatten the coffers of banks and big business.

Our friendly Atlantic bankers will soon begin to reject all loan applications unless they are backed by Government guarantees. Why should banks take the risk when the Government is more than willing to do it? How will the marginal business that needs Government assistance be identified? Bankers will simply shift the risk from themselves to the Government. It means that bankers can reduce their losses and increase their profits.

As well, the floor price of the loan guarantee is \$250,000. Does the Government need a crash course on the Atlantic region? Small business in my Province of Prince Edward Island does not require that much start-up capital.

If the Government is serious about getting the Atlantic economy back on track, let us see it produce a program that reflects our unique problems.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sixty seconds.

## FINANCE

## OPEN LETTER ON TAXES TO PRIME MINISTER

**Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain):** Mr. Speaker, let me quote the following letter:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

We have had enough. We are protesting that gasoline prices and taxes are too high. It is discouraging both Canadian and U.S. tourism and damaging our economy and the high price is unfair to those of us who must use their cars to drive to work.

Your Government gave the oil corporations a \$2.5 billion annual tax break; the response has been to increase the prices to consumers. What did the federal Government do for working Canadians? On January 1 and subsequently, the federal tax was again increased.

Petro-Canada should be directed to reduce prices to reflect falling world oil costs. We are opposed to taxing gasoline to raise money to service our national debt. Government gasoline tax policies are unfair, inequitable and inflationary and we are adding our voices to the demand that these policies be changed.

This was sent to me by the president of Local 1005, Ray Silenzi, and signed by the secretary, Ed Sutherland, together with the signatures of hundreds of their members.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Sixty seconds.

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## THE BUDGET

## SUPPORT FOR PROVISIONS

**Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic):** Mr. Speaker, in September, 1984, Canadians wisely decided that they had had enough of Government mismanagement, profligacy with their hard earned tax dollars, and a national debt that was growing three times faster than the economy.

Their faith in the new Conservative Government has not been misplaced. The Budget, without affecting any necessary services, brings spending under control. Efficiency, economy, and wise use are the watch words of a Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) who treats the taxpayers' money with the same respect as if it were his own.

With the new measures, by the early 1990s our debt will have stabilized and the budgetary deficit will have been eliminated.

Thanks to the Minister of Finance, our financial house is being put in order.

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## ATLANTIC ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

## SUPPORT FOR PROVISIONS

**Mr. W. R. Bud Jardine (Northumberland-Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, contrary to the remarks of the Hon. Member for Egmont (Mr. Henderson), economic growth in the Atlantic provinces did receive encouragement from the new budget measures announced last Wednesday.