

Concerning the GST, I think we all agree it is a nightmare and the small business—

Mr. McDermid: No, we don't all agree.

Mr. Gagliano: Maybe members on the other side do not all agree. When I say that they all agree, I am talking about Canadians.

Mr. McDermid: No, they don't all agree either.

Mr. Gagliano: I might remind the hon. minister that last week in *Small Business* magazine 51 per cent of Canadians said scrap the GST, 45 said change it, and only 4 per cent agreed. Only 4 per cent agreed.

When you say you represent small businesses I say shame on you, you do not even listen to them. You know how we feel about the GST. Interest rates are another mess that this government is creating by keeping interest rates very high.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): There is a minute left on questions. The hon. member.

Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke): Madam Speaker, I want to compliment the hon. member for Saint-Léonard on his speech. It was a very constructive one. It showed that he is in touch with the small business community and knows what is going on out there. That is why his speech was so valuable to the House at this time. He gave some very basic examples of what was going on. He talked about the one-stop shopping centre, which is very popular. He even got the front-benchers of the Conservative Party enthralled with his remarks. They just cannot get over it.

He talked about interest rates. We hear from members on the government benches every day about high interest rates and what a terrible problem they inherited with interest rates when they took over government. I want to remind the House today that when this government took over in September 1984 interest rates in Canada stood at 13 per cent. Today interest rates in Canada stand at 14.25 per cent, higher than when they took office. Yet we hear all this screaming over there.

I want to ask a question of the hon. member for Saint-Léonard, who is obviously very well informed on these things. How will 14.25 per cent interest rates, which may go even higher, affect the legislation before us today? Indeed, how will it affect loans for business

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improvements for small businesses, combined as they will be with the GST problem they will have to face? Let us keep reminding these people that they took over a 13 per cent interest rate in 1984 and they have succeeded in putting it up to 14.25 per cent and still going higher.

Mr. McDermid: We remember when it was 23 per cent, and so do you. We got them down. You didn't.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): A very short comment from the hon. member for Saint-Léonard.

Mr. Gagliano: Even if the members are screaming about what the situation was before they came in, I want to remind them that the real interest rate has never been so high in Canadian history.

I mentioned in my speech that every time the interest rate goes up, the payments on small business loans change. They pay it almost on a daily basis, every Monday, and that is why they do not like it and why they are asking for a fixed payment. This government had a chance to fix that in this amendment and it did not do the fair thing, because it does not understand anything about small business.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): The question is as follows: Mr. Hockin, seconded by Mr. Clark (Yellowhead), moved that Bill C-56, an act to amend the Small—

Ms. Hunter: On debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): I did ask if there was anyone for debate and nobody rose.

Ms. Hunter: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): There cannot be a point of order once the question is being put. I am sorry.

Mr. Whittaker: Madam Speaker, a point of order.

Ms. Hunter: Point of privilege.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Once the question is being put to the House, which was done, there can be no point of order, there can be no point of privilege. The question has been put to the House.