

Government Orders

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
REGIONAL AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

AUTHORIZATION FOR STANDING COMMITTEE TO TRAVEL

Mr. Cooper: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry to interrupt the exchange but, as you know, during Routine Proceedings today under Motions, I had indicated that there were two travel motions, one of which we had to complete consultations on.

I want to advise the House that those consultations are now completed. It is my understanding that there would be unanimous consent for the following travel motion:

That the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology, Regional and Northern Development, be authorized to travel to Toronto from Wednesday, April 24 to Friday, April 26, 1991 in order to attend the conference Reaching for Success: Business and Education Working Together; and

That the necessary staff accompany the committee.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): Does the House give unanimous consent?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS)

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

SPRING ADJOURNMENT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Andre (p. 19433).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): On a very short comment or question.

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, what we heard from the hon. member from Montreal are the same woes that we hear in Toronto city.

The unemployment list is getting longer. The food banks are getting longer. Bankruptcies are growing. The refugee backlog is getting worse. The self-exiled class are not given work permits, et cetera.

Just 45 minutes ago, we met with the building industry from Toronto. It made a comparison of the recession of 1981-82 and the present recession. In 1982, the second year of the recession, there were 14,122 units sold as compared to 1990 when only 8,180 were sold.

I would like to ask the member whether he feels, according to what is happening around Montreal, which recession had a greater negative impact on the people, especially the poor and the unemployed.

Mr. Allmand: Mr. Speaker, as I pointed out when we were in government and faced with the recession of 1981-82, we were an activist government and believed in government intervention to help the situation.

We did not believe in the *laissez-faire* approach to the economy. I can recall very well that we put more money into the construction of housing. We set up funds so that first-time home buyers could buy homes. This was a program which was cancelled by the Conservatives when they came to power.

If they really want to do something, and housing is one area that stimulates the economy and gives people one of the basic needs that they have, shelter, they could at least recognize that fact and come forward with a new budget or a new Speech from the Throne and put money into housing. I understand the housing construction people who were here today recommended that CMHC lower its downpayment requirement from 15 per cent to 5 per cent.

There are things like that which would help the housing industry and the economy to get back on its feet. It would help people to get housing at the same time.

We have to believe in a mixed economy and not in a hands off, *laissez-faire* approach.

[Translation]

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, today, more precisely in a few minutes, Parliament will adjourn for quite a while without even dealing with one of the most important problems for my riding of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell.