

The main concern was taxes. The second concern that this study outlined was government regulation and red tape. Having been a small business person myself, I certainly agree that there is too much red tape and too many regulations. All of these things put demands on the small business sector. As a small business operator, it takes a lot of his or her time to fill out various forms and to provide information that is requested by the government. That not only takes time, but it sometimes takes money. Sometimes the operator has to hire a person to come up with the various figures or information.

As I said, I feel that we have excessive red tape and regulations in the small business sector. I would like to see the government get rid of this excessive red tape.

As we know, the small business sector is the one that really provides the new jobs. It has been estimated that small businesses create approximately eight out of every ten new jobs in Canada. That is one reason why we should do everything possible to help and stimulate small businesses.

Yesterday I asked a question of the Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism regarding the Small Businesses Loans Program. Under this program, where the government guarantees part of the loan, the guaranteed loans to small business have gone down 45 per cent since 1985. That is approximately \$660 million. That is money that is sitting in bank vaults that could be out there in the economy creating jobs and helping to get the economy going.

What I had suggested to the minister was that he look at this program seriously and have an emergency meeting with the bankers across this country and promote that program. I have many people in my riding, as I am sure there are across the country, who would like to take advantage of this program, but unfortunately they are having real problems in getting the money through the Small Businesses Loans Program.

As I said a minute ago, I am pleased to speak on this motion or on any effort to assist small businesses because of the major contribution that it makes to our economy. Certainly, in my province of Prince Edward Island it also makes a major contribution. In fact, I want to give a couple of statistics.

In 1989, companies with less than 50 full-time employees maintained a labour force of 20,000 which was

about half of the total employment in the private sector in the province. Between 1979 and 1989, Prince Edward Island experienced a net gain of 9,200 jobs. Of those 9,200 jobs, 80 per cent came from firms employing 20 employees or less.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** It is six o'clock and the hon. member has a minute remaining in debate. This is one of those selected items pursuant to Standing Order 92(1), so the next time it comes up the hon. member will still have a minute or a minute and a half remaining in her debate.

The time provided for the consideration of Private Members' Business has now expired. Pursuant to Standing Order 93, the order is dropped to the bottom of the order of precedence on the Order Paper.

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## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*Translation*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 is deemed to have been moved.

### SOCIAL HOUSING

**Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard):** Mr. Speaker, since February 25, I have often raised the problem of the lack of social housing in the greater Montreal area.

On February 25, when the Minister of Finance tabled the budget in the House, he proposed cutting the funds for Canada Mortgage and Housing to build new co-operatives.

I have often criticized this policy which deprives thousands of Canadians, Quebecers and Montrealers, of adequate housing.

This evening, during the four minutes I have to raise this issue, I will deal specifically with the question I asked the minister on April 30. Before doing so, I would still like to give some figures on what has happened since this government took power. With the latest budget, the Conservative government hopes to save \$622 million over the next five years, and this cut affects tens of thousands of housing units in Quebec alone.