

SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

Mrs. Diane Marleau (Sudbury): Madam Speaker, according to a government press release on small business: "Loans to small businesses in Canada will become more accessible as a result of the significant changes to the Small Businesses Loans Act".

A constituent of mine applied to a local bank for a loan under the program. The interest on the loan would have been about 7 per cent. He has long been known in Sudbury as a hard worker and for his dedication and commitment to his customers. He offered his personal home as collateral. However the bank in question turned him down.

• (1410)

Despite the bank's failure to help him he established his business by mortgaging his house. However he is paying an interest rate of 13.25 per cent, more than double what it should be costing him. That is unfair. Despite all of that his business is doing well and is already creating a number of jobs.

I want to make the point that the banks deal in a very heavy-handed way with small businesses. How many others have the banks turned down across this country? How many others have not established their businesses? How many jobs have not been created?

Madam Deputy Speaker: I regret that the member's time has expired.

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HEALTH

Ms. Dawn Black (New Westminster—Burnaby): Madam Speaker, access to abortion services remains uneven across the country.

Fourteen hundred abortions are performed on Canadian women in American border states because of lack of access in parts of Canada. Women in the Atlantic provinces, the north and those outside urban centres spend a great deal of money and time to travel for this simple medical procedure.

When they do reach a clinic they are often forced to walk through a barrage of picketers who harass them. While they were in power both the Liberals and Conservatives significantly cut funds for family planning education, thus increasing the need for abortion.

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I ask the health minister to make RU-486 available in Canada, as it is in the U.S., and for the government to reverse its policies of economic and social inequality which rob many women of the choice to have children and of the right not to have children.

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POVERTY

Hon. Alan Redway (Don Valley East): Madam Speaker, a United Nations committee has criticized Canada for not dealing with domestic poverty.

The UN has also criticized Canada for not spending enough on foreign aid to fight poverty in the Third World. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has criticized Canada for not accepting more poor refugees, especially severely disabled refugees.

Another UN agency, the International Monetary Fund, has criticized Canada for not reducing our deficit and our debt fast enough. We might find some of the necessary resources in our defence budget but the UN Security Council keeps asking Canada to provide more of our military and its equipment for UN peacekeeping forces.

If we are going to address all of these very laudable concerns in the short run, we certainly have our work cut out for us.

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PATRONAGE

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg—St. James): Madam Speaker, the endless parade of patronage and sleaze continues.

We have seen the baby-sitter get an appointment. We have seen the barman get an appointment. We have seen the barber get an appointment. Even the barber's wife got a little gift from the Mulroney—Charest—Campbell cabinet.

Now we hear that former Tory MP Jim McGrath has received a plum patronage posting. McGrath has been given a three-year appointment to the National Transportation Agency.

The Canadian people are sick and tired of this kind of sleaze and nepotism. They are sick to death of the old ways of the Conservative Party.