

*Small Businesses Loans Act*

responsibility for the loans which they have approved, since they are profiting from them.

At the same time, while we demand some accountability from the lending institutions, we are not being unreasonable because the Government will not reject a bank's claim in cases where Small Businesses Loans Act borrowers amalgamate and their combined loans exceed the \$100,000 limit. Accountability is important, as it should be whenever public funds are involved. As such, it is perfectly natural and just for Government, as guardian of public moneys, to insist that a lender respect and comply with the regulations or be liable for the full claim.

Dollard riding contains one of the most heavily industrialized cities in the Province of Quebec—Ville Saint Laurent. The city has a population of 65,000. It has 3,900 businesses, 1,800 of which can be construed as small businesses in the confines of the legislation. Overall, the businesses employ 78,000 workers. In addition to that, there are many other ancillary businesses and services which have been built up and which will continue to build because of the energetic leadership of Mr. Charles Robitaille, who is the Director of Economic Development for Saint Laurent. Through his leadership, Saint Laurent has been able continually to attract new industry and businesses, which gives small business an opportunity to flourish. The regulations which this legislation contains will provide more money to business so that they can locate close to the industries. Major industries cannot exist alone in a vacuum. Sustaining them and their employees are a myriad host of service industries which account for 40 per cent of the loans.

At the same time, the riding of Dollard has a broad multicultural base. Fifty per cent of the population comes from visible minority groups from various multicultural backgrounds. The Bill of Rights has enshrined true equality in Canada, but we need only examine the upper strata of big business, both in the public sector and the private sector—be it at the municipal, provincial or federal level—to discover that ethnic representation is practically non-existent. It is obvious to people who have businesses in Canada that the ethnic community still has not taken its rightful place in our society.

However, the ethnic community does play a very important role in small business. There have been a number of instances in the last few weeks in which members of the ethnic community have come forward with applications for small businesses. One case involves a man who owns a garage which employs five people. He wants to modernize and expand that facility and in doing so he will be able to create an additional five jobs. Another case involves a man who owns a cleaning establishment. That man also wants to expand his facility and create another five jobs. That type of activity makes up the cornerstone of our community. The majority of the jobs which are created in my area are created by small-businessmen.

From these communities have come a new generation of small-businessmen. They are hard-working and dedicated to their dream of building a new and prosperous life in their chosen home, Canada. They often require financial assistance

when initiating their new enterprises. Those enterprises are creating new jobs for Canadians and this legislation offers them the assistance which is needed to purchase equipment or expand their premises.

I support this Bill. It will encourage the entrepreneurial spirit, aid some of our most progressive and innovative businessmen, and help to ensure more jobs for Canadians and a successful economy. No greater powerhouse for economic renewal than the small-businessman exists. We must remove the obstacles and permit small-businessmen to grow.

The Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Atikokan (Mr. Angus) has already mentioned several instances upon which I would like to expand. We could look at simplifying the tax and regulatory environment. Small-businessmen are burdened with paperwork which has become an unsurmountable obstacle. Small-businessmen should insist that the Government reduce the amount of paperwork. Small business must have access to the necessary equity capital, and this legislation will provide that. As well, I hope the Government will look at the effect of unemployment insurance premiums. It is a contentious issue; however, it is a payroll tax and a deterrent to job creation.

Canadians must expect less of Government and more from the private sector. There must be a better balance in the Canadian economy between the public sector and the private sector. We must restore confidence and commitment to sustain economic renewal, and it must begin with the small-businessman.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Are there questions or comments on the speech of the Hon. Member?

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciated the speech which was made by the Hon. Member for Dollard (Mr. Weiner). He said that we must separate business from government and, in essence, get government off the back of business. Could he explain the type of government which should be taken off the back of business? Could he be precise as opposed to general?

**Mr. Weiner:** Mr. Speaker, it is an interesting concern. In many instances government has become an active competitor with small business. For example, the recent takeovers in the oil and gas industry. In one case, Petrofina became an active competitor with small business. Sometimes that is done with practices and methods which are not available to small business, such as marketing and the costs which are disbursed through bureaucracy. That is one particular instance but I believe there are many others to which I could refer.

**Mr. Riis:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member made a variety of points in his speech and often referred to the fact that more emphasis must be placed on the private sector. I think that people would generally agree with that. He mentioned the fact that there were too many government restrictions and that we should look at the unemployment insurance premiums issue. Is he suggesting that Petrofina should be eliminated? Can the Hon. Member give us two or three examples of present