

ment Bank has caused problems in business circles. When a small business gets too big, it has to transfer its accounts to the Federal Business Development Bank, and when a big business gets too small, it has to transfer from the Federal Business Development Bank to the Small Business Development Bank. Has the Member given any consideration to an amalgamation of the Small Business Development Bank and the Federal Business Development Bank?

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, as interesting as this question may be, it has nothing to do with the Bill before us, as you have probably recognized, nor does it have anything to do with what I said in my remarks this morning.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, the reason I raised the question was that the Hon. Member mentioned the Small Business Development Bank in his remarks. Did the Member realize there is no Small Business Development Bank?

Mr. Boudria: No, Mr. Speaker. I talked about the Federal Business Development Bank and the campaign promises in the document which I have in my hand. It came from the Prime Minister's Office. I would assume that the information in it has at least some semblance of truth in view of the fact that it comes from his own Leader's office.

Mr. Gormley: Mr. Speaker, many of us sat through the Hon. Member's speech this morning and heard him allude to the fact, as improbable and impossible as it would be, that this Government would somehow be reneging on its promises to business. As this Government is truly the representative Party in Canada, and I think that is beyond dispute, I would like to ask the member of a political Party which brought us FIRA, the National Energy Program, and the untold havoc they created, 22 per cent interest rates, 12 per cent inflation, an Income Tax Act that went to over 1,000 pages, excessive government regulations, 1.5 million people unemployed and other such economic indicators, if he can claim in fact any sort of commitment as a Liberal to small business or, in this case, the amendment to the Small Businesses Loans Act.

[Translation]

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I am proud to answer the Hon. Member's question. I can certainly say that the Liberal Party has indeed always been committed to small business. I will even take this opportunity to provide you with a few examples.

First of all, in August 1980, the government established a sub-contracting promotion program for Canadian corporations. It also reduced the tax rates applicable to small businesses. These steps were initiated by a Liberal government in 1972 and improved upon in 1981. The Liberal Party also created the small business advisory council in 1982. Moreover, there have been small business investment grants provided for in the June 1982 Budget which reduced interest rates by as much as 4 percentage points. There has been also the 6 and 5 per cent committee for small businesses. The April 1983 budget also established an investment tax credit.

Small Businesses Loans Act

Mr. Speaker, I believe my hon. colleague asked me the following questions: What action has the Liberal party ever taken for, or what commitment has it ever made to small business? I am in the process of answering his questions. And as you certainly realize, Mr. Speaker, I will need a long time to do so, because the Liberal Party has done quite a lot for small business. I continue.

The April 1983 budget provided also for a research and development tax credit, as well as the forward and backward averaging of losses. There have been also the Export Development Fund, the sharing of labour costs, the amendment to the Federal Development Bank, and I am now coming to the February 1984 budget and all the measures that were taken at that time to improve the small businesses' lot. There have been the streamlining of the tax system for small businesses, a more equitable administration of taxation, the profit sharing program, the changes to the sales tax and, finally, the international trade assistance fund.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, in reply to my hon. colleague, I can say that the Liberal Party has done quite a lot for small business, and as soon as we return to power, we will continue to demonstrate to the Canadian people our commitment to small business.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Questions! The Hon. Member for Gatineau (Mrs. Maily) has the floor.

● (1550)

Mrs. Maily: Yes, I would like to make one comment in particular, Mr. Speaker.

In his review, the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) overlooked the MacEachen budget which almost destroyed private enterprise. He also neglected to mention the legal action taken by the Department of National Revenue which involved putting a freeze on bank accounts of small businesses. He also forgot to mention the pressure of interest rates as high as 23 per cent felt by small businesses, especially during the summer of 1982. He also neglected to mention the fact that the small business development bond was a measure introduced by the Clark Government in 1979.

We have been in power only four months and we have achieved two very important goals. We introduced a measure which has improved the situation under the previous Government with respect to assistance to widows and widowers and old age security pensions. We also introduced the small business development bond which the Liberal Government, in an absent-minded moment of wisdom—and there certainly was not much of that during its 1980 mandate—included in the MacEachen budget, the only measure that was not changed, Mr. Speaker. There were forty-one measures in the MacEachen budget, and I think thirty-five were changed because