

farm communities. By making this change, the Commission has ignored the natural boundary created by Riding Mountain National Park, which is a federal park in western Manitoba, and the Commission has created a new boundary which excludes these communities from the areas above and below Riding Mountain National Park, which will be foreign to the people in those communities.

The Hon. Member who preceded me talked about communities of interest and their importance. I suggest this same analogy apply to the riding of Portage-Marquette. People get used to dealing and trading as a particular known area. They receive literature from their Member of Parliament, whoever the person may be. Residents of areas are used to a particular name of an area, especially when there has not been a change before or for many years.

I would suggest the Commission has to take another look at the situation and it should redraw and probably reinstate the boundary to its original position. This can be done without any great problem. In proposing to shift the present boundary south of Riding Mountain National Park, the Boundaries Commission will make it very difficult for most of the communities along what is called the Turkey Trail to get in touch with their Member of Parliament. This is an area along the foot of Riding Mountain National Park. That area has been known for years and years as Turkey Trail and the people know that part of the constituency by that name. A change would cause a fairly substantial disruption to the whole trading area and the base of that constituency.

Electoral Commission hearings were held in Portage-LaPrairie on October 26, 1982. Because Portage LaPrairie is the largest town outside of the City of Winnipeg and, until one reaches Brandon, Portage LaPrairie is over 200 miles from the area to be affected, nobody attended the hearings to make objections. It was too far away. For the hearings to be held properly, they should have been held in Shoal Lake or in either Minnedosa or Rossburn, and the Commissioners would have heard basically what I am saying now in terms of the objections to the name change.

In my opinion, the Commissioners have shown insensitivity to the circumstances peculiar to this riding. What is most important is that the people in the riding are not happy about the name and the boundary change. Their Member of Parliament is not happy. The changes will not be substantial to reinstate the boundary lines, and they should be done because this is what everybody wants. We are here to try to assist constituencies in the different areas of Canada.

In reviewing the decision concerning the constituency of Portage-Marquette, I am sure the commissioners will see that what I have been saying and what the Member of Parliament for that constituency has said, as well as what the people in the area feel and want, is to return the constituency to its original state.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): There being no other Member rising at this time to contribute to the debate, in

Small Businesses Loans Act

accordance with the Order passed earlier this day, this debate stands adjourned until a later date.

The Chair senses there may be a disposition to call it one o'clock. Is it agreed?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[*English*]

SMALL BUSINESSES LOANS ACT (NO. 4)

AMENDMENT TO EXTEND TERMINATION DATE FOR LOANS

Hon. William Rompkey (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)) moved that Bill C-144, to amend the Small Businesses Loans Act (No. 4), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, it is an honour for me to table in the House Bill C-144, to amend the Small Businesses Loans Act. The Act is a popular and useful feature of the Government's measures to help small businessmen and small business firms who, as the House will know, can obtain loans guaranteed by the Government from private lenders at interest rates set out at 1 per cent over the prime lending rates of the chartered banks.

The Act was passed by the House in 1961 and its impact since that time has indeed been substantial. One hundred thousand loans totalling approximately \$2.5 billion have been authorized under the Act. In 1982, almost 17,000 small businesses from every region of the country borrowed some \$427 million under the SBLA. During the course of the last four years, almost one out of ten small businesses in Canada have borrowed under this program. It is an effective program because it encourages lenders in the private sector to make term loans available to small business with a minimum of intervention by the Government in the financial markets. The revisions to the Act have broadened the eligibility for loans, increased the ceiling, and introduced a more flexible rate structure to increase the amount and availability of loans.

The Bill that I have tabled now will provide for extension of the Small Businesses Loans Act for another two years. I would urge Hon. Members to provide for speedy passage of this measure. I know that there is a disposition on both sides of the House to help small business, and I know that Hon. Members