

Pension Act

● (1540)

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is not properly representing what happened in that committee. The committee has not decided not to hear Professor Kotler and to deal with this issue. The committee has decided, as guided by the law clerk of the committee, that the matter is not relevant while considering the present Criminal Code amendments before the committee. It is going to hear interest groups, Professor Kotler and whoever else wants to be heard later, I think on some date in March.

I am astounded at this continuous sniping partisanship which is a part of the Liberal approach to our trying to deal with this problem, which they failed to deal with for the last 40 years. It is a partisan, narrow attempt to get some little advantage, as they perceive it, for their Party by asking such silly and partisan questions in such an unfair, jejune and juvenile manner.

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PETITIONS

EMPLOYMENT EQUITY

Mr. Andrew Witer (Parkdale-High Park): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour of presenting to the House a petition on behalf of the Canadian Ethnocultural Council. The petitioners call upon Parliament to enact employment equity and contract compliance legislation on an urgent basis and urge that employment equity planning in departments begin without delay, and that Parliament support the Abella recommendation for language training and those recommendations directed at the other designated groups, women, the handicapped and the native people.

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PENSION ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. George Hees (Minister of Veterans Affairs) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-28, an Act to Amend the Pension Act.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the Hon. Member have leave to introduce the Bill?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER

(Questions answered orally are indicated by an asterisk.)

Mr. Ron Stewart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, the following question will be answered today: No. 198.

[Text]

GRANTS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS

Question No. 198—**Mr. Stackhouse:**

In the past fiscal year, have any loans to foreign governments been converted to grants and, if so, what was the total amount?

Hon. Barbara McDougall (Minister of State (Finance)): There were no cases of loans to foreign governments being converted to grants in the last fiscal year.

[English]

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. On December 5 I placed a question on the Order Paper asking very specifically what contracts had been let in the riding of Manicouagan since the election. One would think the Government would at least know what it was doing in the riding of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) and would have the decency to respond after two months. I wonder if you, Mr. Speaker, could assist Members in trying to get some answers from this Government, which is just not very forthcoming.

Mr. Stewart: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: The question as enumerated by the Parliament Secretary has been answered. Shall the remaining questions be allowed to stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SMALL BUSINESSES LOANS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Bissonnette that Bill C-23, an Act to Amend the Small Businesses Loans Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Regional Development.

Mr. Speaker: At this point I am advised that the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) had completed his speech but that the 10 minute period for questions and comments remains.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to the comments of the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria). He rambled quite a bit, but he did touch on one very important point. I want to ask him a question since he is obviously very knowledgeable about these kinds of things. He will know that for some years the Small Business Develop-