

give it to us then we will create it ourselves by creating our own banking institutions in northern Ontario.

Hon. Tom Hockin (Minister for Science and Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Mr. Speaker, I would like the hon. member who has just spoken to stay for a minute so I can respond to a couple of his comments and also to those of his colleague. I respect both of them very much and they are interested in these subjects so I am going to try to respond to what they have said in the last 10 or 15 minutes because they are asking serious questions.

I will address northern Ontario first because as the minister responsible for FEDNOR and as a minister for small business I think one of the real pleasures of that job was to be in charge of FEDNOR and to see that \$60 million program in the last five years go into northern Ontario and create thousands of jobs in over 105 different communities.

• (1620)

The beauty of this program is that it supplements bank lending and private financing. I am surprised to hear the hon. member speak disparagingly of it. It usually levers the banks to do things they would not do.

I think he makes a good point. Northern Ontario has always had difficulty with getting chartered banks to pay attention and to give small businesses access to credit. That has been an historic problem for about 100 years. It is less of a problem now because of FEDNOR. In 400 different cases, it has levered bank lending that would never be there if FEDNOR was not there.

I ask the member to not say he does not want FEDNOR because that would have shut down those 400 things from happening and 105 different communities have benefited from the program.

An hon. member: He did not say that.

Mr. Hockin: I want to speak to my friend's more telling point which is that banks generally are not lending to small and medium sized enterprises. I want to thank his party and I want to thank the NDP which helped too. There was tremendous work by caucus members on our side who helped us get the Small Businesses Loans Act through the House of Commons two weeks ago. On Thursday it will have third reading in the Senate and will

Supply

receive royal assent. The hon. member wants us to advertise this program before it is passed.

An hon. member: You have done that for nine years.

Mr. Hockin: The hon. member says that we have done it for nine years. He wants us to advertise the program with all the details, all the regulations and all the amendments even before it has passed the Senate. We cannot do that.

I want to tell my hon. friends, the members for Kenora—Rainy River and Broadview—Greenwood, that I respect their impatience about publicizing this. I want their ideas on how to do it.

Here is what we are going to do as soon as the bill passes on Thursday because I think everyone is interested in what we are going to do. We are going to put together a massive advertising campaign with the banks, and independent of the banks, right across Canada.

The second thing we are going to do is to make sure within the next month that all the lending officers in every bank branch—and we want the caisses de dépôt and the credit unions as well—are given a course on what the new SBLA is and what it amounts to so that they can be *au courant*.

I quite agree with the member for Kenora—Rainy River when he says that if one goes into a bank today in Kenora and ask about the SBLA then they are thinking of the old SBLA and not the new one.

An hon. member: They do not know about it at all.

Mr. Hockin: That is probably true too because they did not like the old one. It did not give them what they wanted and it was a program that the Liberals had put in place from 1980 to 1984 and that we changed in certain ways. Both what we did and what they did was not enough to lever more than \$400 million worth of lending last year.

We are now told by the banks that with these changes that we have made to the SBLA—my hon. friend supports these changes—we are going to have over \$1 billion worth of business in the next year alone.

How are they going to do that if they do not promote it? How are they going to do it if they do not advertise it? How are they going to do it without training? This is