

*Competition Tribunal Act*

2. G.N.C. should not work on conversions already done by us without our permission (we have had no returns to date except for adjustments or defective parts).

3. A guarantee applies to work done in our workshop.

4. Stop urging customers to avoid our workshop and stop all negative criticism of our business—we have proof this is happening.

5. Mr. Lefebvre and Mr. Denis are to stop immediately any abuse, either in writing or verbal, for the purpose of making me close my dealership.

6. Stop all discrimination against me because of my Italian ethnic background.

7. Stop immediately all threats about closing down my business if my prices differ from G.N.C.'s, since this is illegal and against the "Price Fixing Combine Act".

8. The G.N.C. centre should be a technical centre to help dealers and should not compete directly with them. It should stop all unfair competition.

9. Stop preventing G.N.C. employees from working in another concession.

10. As far as their so-called "Come Back" is concerned, I am a qualified first class technician, #101177. G.N.C. has an incredible number of dissatisfied customers and repairs, unbeknown to its senior executive, so that people are becoming reluctant to having their cars converted.

11. I suggest the formation of an independent G.N.C. committee to control operations of systems installed throughout Quebec, which would include customer service.

12. I want a guarantee on the land for my dealership.

13. According to Sylvain Denis, they want to close down my dealership and give it to the Shell Station only.

There is another whole page, and I will stop here at the end of the letter, Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Martin, I hope you will understand what I am trying to say. I am personally willing to meet you at any time if you want further details or want to discuss anything. I am in business, I create jobs, and I want things to be fair for small businesses as well as for the multinationals. I am a resident of Quebec and I pay my share of taxes. Awaiting your reply, and hoping you will answer as soon as possible, I remain,

Yours very truly,  
Carmelo Nicolo

Mr. Speaker, here is one of thousands of small business people who are always struggling against the competition. Even if we do get through Bill C-91 today, this is not going to solve any of their problems.

Nevertheless, in their speeches and whenever they rise in the House, Government Members constantly refer to small businesses and mention everything they have done to help this group.

We saw another instance of this last week, when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) announced his new regulations on small business investment in pension plans. What was missing from or rather, what should have appeared in this press release? It was the words: small businesses. And they were missing because the new rules apply mainly to large businesses. Mr. Speaker, according to these regulations, the entrepreneur, members of his family and his associates may not invest in small business. How are investors going to invest in small business without asking for certain guarantees, without having a system that will ensure they get a return on their investment and that their investment is a good one?

The Government does not want to understand all this and keeps prohibiting small business from investing in its own pension fund and its own business.

Mr. Speaker, this is obvious from the document entitled "Investment in Small Business", published by the Minister of State for Small Businesses. It mentions that a pension fund would take the money and administer it through the small business. Upon reading this paper we realize that the whole scheme is unacceptable and unrealistic.

● (1620)

[English]

Mr. Speaker, I do not know if the Hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Domm) read press release 10 of the Petroleum Marketers Association of Canada. It reads:

There is no doubt that the Minister has brought forth an elaborate package, with all the appropriate buzz words (trade enhancement, job creation, fairness, reliance on market forces and private sector, as the trend to deregulation continues, etc.).

Unfortunately, the Minister has listened too much to the representatives of Big Business (B.C.N.I., Canadian Chamber, C.M.A., Grocery Products Mfg. Association, and Canadian Bar Association), and not enough to consumers and small business . . .

Our next step is to greatly strengthen this Bill at Second Reading. We believe that we can count on M.P.'s of all parties for this non-partisan effort, which the McGrath reforms now make possible.

We know that our concerns are shared by the Consumers Association of Canada, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, the National Automotive Trades Association, and the Canadian Organization of Small Business, and we look forward to working with them on this most important endeavour.

That is in response to the Parliamentary Secretary's statement that he had the support of the small business groups. As seen in the press release of the Petroleum Marketers Association of Canada, that is not so.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to talk about something that happened in my riding at the end of the year. It involved an industry in my riding, SKD Technology at Ville D'Anjou which has lost 200 jobs, and neither this Bill nor the present Bill nor the Bill on foreign investment would have been able to save these jobs, and Government Members did nothing to help these employees keep their jobs. The facts are as follows: Continental Can had a shock absorber plant at Ville D'Anjou, which employed about 200 people, and a decision was made to sell the plant to the Marmon Group. At that time, if the transaction had been arranged directly, there would have been some problems with the Investment Canada Act, since both companies are foreign entities. They decided to announce the plant was closing down, and Marmon Group bought the building and equipment, and in that way was not obliged to go through Investment Canada, and the upshot was that 200 jobs in Montreal East were lost, out of a total of 5,000. Mr. Speaker, if we read through this Bill, there is absolutely nothing there to protect those jobs.