

Small Businesses Loans Act (No. 2)

[Text]

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE
COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEANMotion No. 34—**Mr. Herbert:**

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House, copies of all correspondence, telegrams, minutes of meetings and other communications during the last year, between the government and the communities of the Commonwealth Caribbean that relate to the exchange of commodities and technology, the exchange of students, tariff changes and other measures to improve trade, tourism and cultural exchanges between Canada and the Caribbean area.

[English]

Madam Speaker: Transferred for debate.

[Text]

COPIES OF AGREEMENTS OR COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND GENERAL ALUMINUM
FORGING LTD., HAMILTON, ONT.Motion No. 54—**Mr. Herbert:**

That an Order of the House do issue for a copy of any agreement signed between the Enterprise Development Board and General Aluminum Forging Ltd. of Hamilton, Ontario, including copies of all communications and minutes of meetings between the two parties prior to the signing of the agreement.

[English]

Madam Speaker: Transferred for debate. Shall the remaining notices of motions for the production of papers stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SMALL BUSINESSES LOANS ACT (NO. 2)

MEASURE TO INCREASE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF LOANS

The House resumed from Tuesday, December 15, 1981, consideration of the motion of Mr. Lapointe (Charlevoix) that Bill C-84, to amend the Small Businesses Loans Act (No. 2), be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Madam Speaker, in speaking to the bill that is before the House today, let me begin by paying tribute to my colleague, the hon. member for Cambridge (Mr. Speyer) for leading off the debate for our party and for doing an excellent job of outlining the position of our party in support of this legislation. Let me also share this with the House, that in the short period of time he has been in the chamber his speeches have always made good reading and have always made good sense.

● (1520)

As the majority of hon. members are aware, the amendment will increase the maximum of all loans which may be guaran-

teed during the two-year period ending June 30, 1982, from \$850 million to \$1.5 billion. This is an increase of some \$650 million on the ceiling which may be guaranteed by the Government of Canada.

Small business plays a vital and essential role in the economic, social and community lives of all Canadians. I should like to share some facts about the small business sector with the chamber in support of the significant role it plays and the significant contribution it makes to the economic wellbeing of Canada. Over 95 per cent of all business is small business. Small business provide jobs for close to 60 per cent of the work force. Two-thirds of all new jobs are created by small business. Small business contributes over 30 per cent to the gross national product. Small business is the largest employer outside government. Agriculture is a renewable resource and is Alberta's number one industry. It is comprised almost totally of small businesses. Small business develops more new products and services, builds more new outlying communities, replaces more imports and generates more exports than any other segment of the economy. The important goal of small business is obvious, but let me review how the Liberal government reacted to this sector.

It has always been my belief that if business were given the opportunity to expand and flourish the way it should, we would have a thriving economy. I have always believed that business was founded on the idea of private enterprise, that if one built a better mousetrap, the world beat a path to one's door. But if one builds a better mousetrap today, the government comes along with a better mouse. There is no better example of that than the recent budget which was tabled in the House on November 12 by the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen). I will have more to say about the budget shortly, but first I wish to review some more important aspects of the small business sector and the vital role it plays in our social wellbeing. Small business provides more funding and volunteer public service than any other source. It fills the needs of all persons, whether they be residents or visitors. Small business is independent and self-supporting. For every new enterprise in the community, the spin-off benefits create additional new enterprise. Small business provides the greatest source of improved skills training, more than any other segment of the business world. It unites the spirit of every community, providing a common bond to all residents. The majority of revenue produced by small business is recycled within its own trading area. Small business is responsible for the creation of more competition than any other source. It provides the greatest opportunity for innovation. Small business is truly big business.

It appears that there is a wave of contempt, almost hatred born of ignorance, for the free enterprise system of today; a system sparkplugged by the hope of economic reward which has lifted more burdens from the backs of those who toil than any other system the world has known. Some people today would curtail private property rights; others declare that the word "profits" is synonymous with evil. Both groups have