

*Small Businesses Loans Act*

for this Bill today. I was particularly pleased to hear the constructive comments made by the former Minister for Small Businesses, of which I have made some notes, and also of the Hon. Member for Vegreville (Mr. Mazankowski) and others.

I noticed that flowing through them, although some of the comments were constructive, was general support for this Bill and for small business. Knowing, then, that we had to have the legislation before the end of March, otherwise small business will indeed be handicapped, knowing their support for small business, knowing that there are no real changes in this Bill from past policy, and knowing that this is only one instrument for small business, I would ask him now if he would confirm early understandings that I thought we had that this Bill would pass all stages today.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, although that question is not directly on the content of my speech, I would like to suggest that I do not, to the best of my knowledge, remember any suggestion that this Bill would pass all stages today. Our critic for small business is not here and I know he wants an opportunity to comment on this Bill. In my remarks I said that I realized when the Act was going to expire, but we do think it is appropriate that our critic for small business has an opportunity to make a statement on this Bill. Unfortunately, we were only apprised of the fact that this Bill was coming up today—

**Mr. Huntington:** We did not get the Bill.

**Mr. Lewis:** The Bill was only introduced yesterday afternoon. We operate a little differently from the Government in that we plan what we are doing in advance so that we can have people here to speak. We would be glad to accommodate the Government if they would give us sufficient notice to allow us to bring in our speakers and to do a job on it.

**Mr. Rompkey:** Mr. Speaker, I would simply have to say that we laid on the record a roll-over of a provision that is very important for small business and laid on the record our support for small business. I listened to what the Opposition had to say as closely as I could, but I have to say now that there is rhetoric on the other side but very little substance of real support for small business.

What I am hearing, really, is more of the same kind of phoniness that we have heard before. I think that the word should go out from here to the small business community across Canada that what we are seeing is further obstructionist tactics by the Opposition. They talk a good game for small business but they never put their money where their mouth is.

**Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich):** You never put the Bill in your mouth.

**An Hon. Member:** That is not a point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please. There may have been a point of order to the Minister's statement at the beginning, but I subsequently lost track of where it might have

gone. It is evident from statements in the House that there will be further speakers if necessary to take us to five o'clock.

Does the President of the Privy Council want the question put? I cannot do that if there is an Hon. Member rising to speak on the Bill.

**Mr. Pinard:** I want to ask a question of the previous speaker, Mr. Speaker. We have ten minutes.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** I am sorry, I misunderstood the President of the Privy Council. Could he rise and indicate what it is he is asking?

[Translation]

**Mr. Pinard:** Mr. Speaker, are Hon. Members allowed to ask questions for ten minutes after speeches on second reading?

[English]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The President of the Privy Council was rising on a question?

**Mr. Pinard:** Yes. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the House Leader of the Official Opposition. He just indicated very clearly that he was denying, for his Party, the unanimous consent required to get the remaining stages of the Bill through this afternoon.

I would like to ask him this question. Is he aware that many times in the past before he was appointed House Leader of the Official Opposition there was agreement to get such a Bill, as a matter of fact a Bill like this one, through with one speaker per Party? How is it that today he is requiring that many speakers on his side to obstruct the passage of this urgent legislation? Could he explain why, under the pretext that his critic is not here, knowing that this Bill was to be called yesterday—

**Mr. Huntington:** You are wasting time.

**Mr. Pinard:** I am sorry, I thought the Hon. Member was interjecting, Mr. Speaker. There is still time; it is not yet five o'clock. If there is unanimous consent we could get the remaining stages of that Bill through now, like we used to do in the past.

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** What is the question?

**Mr. Pinard:** The Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Baker) who is asking me what is the question knows very well what I am talking about, because when he was the Opposition House Leader we used to get more than one Bill through all stages on a Friday afternoon. I am asking the Hon. Member behind him why he is not following the good example of his predecessor.

**Mr. Lewis:** Mr. Speaker, I would say to the Government House Leader that I am following all of the good examples of all of the outstanding House Leaders of the Conservative Party and trying to avoid some of the examples of the Government. I cannot explain the great interest in speaking on this Bill. I indicated that we were in general support of the Bill, but