

METRIC CONVERSION

CALL FOR ABANDONMENT OF PROGRAM—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Bill Domm (Peterborough): Madam Speaker, the *Wall Street Journal* reports that the United States metric board has been told by the Reagan administration to "walk its last kilometre" by March 31, 1982. In the United States highway signs will stay miles per hour, the national weather service will report in degrees Fahrenheit, and retail food stores will continue to deal in pounds and ounces. Therefore I move, seconded by the hon. member for Burlington (Mr. Kempling):

That we abandon this forced march to metric and get in line with our major trading partners and thereby save hundreds of millions of dollars by staying with our traditional units of measurement, imperial. It is only by such a course that the government can truly display restraint.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

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THE BUDGET

SUGGESTED EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BOND PROGRAM—MOTION UNDER S.O. 43

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Madam Speaker, in this deepening recession every assistance must be given to growing small businesses. If small business bonds for new growth were appropriate last February when the minister thought we were in good times, surely this form of interest cost assistance is more appropriate now when clearly the economy is in a tailspin recession. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Brampton-Georgetown (Mr. McDermid):

That the Minister of Finance today on motions correct the foolish error he made in his budget and extend the small business development bond for the purchase of new equipment for the full year, 1982, and so give small business some encouragement to expand.

Madam Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for this motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Oral Questions

● (1415)

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

THE BUDGET

ADVICE OFFERED BY CANADIAN FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS SPOKESMAN

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Finance. As I am sure he is painfully aware by now, Mr. John Bulloch, who represents some 62,000 Canadian independent business men and women, had a press conference this morning, at which time he declared war on the minister's budget. He called it the greatest threat to enterprise since the Benson white paper in 1969, and I quote:

Bulloch accused the Department of Finance officials of demonstrating a shocking lack of practical knowledge of the business community and unconscionable ignorance of the functioning of capital markets.

As the tide rolls in as far as adverse comment is concerned and as far as jobs and the budget's impact with respect to investment are concerned, is the minister willing to take Mr. Bulloch's advice and to refer this matter to a standing committee where we can have public hearings on it?

[Translation]

Hon. Charles Lapointe (Minister of State (Small Businesses and Tourism)): Madam Speaker, I believe that the hon. member is making the same mistake the president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business made this morning. Madam Speaker, if members of the opposition want to answer on my behalf, they should form the government. However, since they were defeated over a year ago, they might be better off listening to the answers given by the ministers. Madam Speaker, if the hon. member had taken the trouble to read the budget, he would know that in addition to increasing the annual income limit for small business corporate tax rates from \$150,000 to \$200,000, in addition to exempting small business from corporate surtax, and to reducing the cost of unemployment insurance premiums for employers and, Madam Speaker, in addition to extending the Small Business Development Bond, measures which will cost the government about \$400 million, which means \$400 million more in the pockets of Canada's small businesses, the hon. member will realize that his question is totally unfounded, Madam Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Speyer: Madam Speaker, that is just an inadequate answer from an inadequate minister.

LIMITATION ON INVESTMENT INCOME DEDUCTIONS

Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge): My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. There are many, many repugnant aspects within the budget, but there are none more repugnant than the notion of limiting the amount of interest which can be deducted with respect to