

*Small Businesses Loans Act*

**Mr. Boudria:** No, I know we will not have it in the next 20 years, because we never get any answer from the Tory Government on almost anything, Mr. Speaker, and I am in total agreement with my colleague here who just said the Conservative Government offers nothing and answers nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I have another question which was supposed to be asked and it reads as follows: "How can you justify the increase in incorporating fees, when your Government boasts of supporting small businesses?" This is what the reporter is expected to ask, and the Minister should answer: "Fees have not been increased for years, and in any case incorporating fees are but a small fraction of the costs of doing business".

Mr. Speaker, since our small entrepreneurs have that much difficulty right now, I wonder whether the Minister personally feels—and I am confident he will say frankly in a few minutes whether he is personally in favour of increasing those fees, the incorporating fees—whether he feels that such an increase is reasonable, and whether it is by overburdening small businesses that we are going to help our small Canadian entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, along with my colleagues, I think that this Government since it came to power has proved to be totally unconcerned and unwilling to help our small businesses. They have had five months to do so, and to this day they have done just about nothing.

[English]

I am glad I woke up another Hon. Member on the other side who is asking me what the Liberals have done for small business in 20 years. I am glad to hear the question. I am glad that the New Democratic Member praised the Ontario Development Corporation. As the Hon. Member knows, that was a joint federal-provincial program begun six years ago. I would like to thank the New Democratic Member for mentioning that. I am sure that all my Liberal colleagues will be pleased to read that in *Hansard*.

I will indicate some of the improvements that Liberals made to the law. The law was established in 1961 and was improved in 1971. The amount that could be borrowed was increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000. In 1977 the amount was increased to \$75,000. Those are major strides made by Liberal Governments. I am glad that my colleagues in the Conservative Party asked what the Liberal Government did. We Liberals are proud of the things we have done for small business. We did not wait until the very last hour and then try to slip the Bill under the door with regressive clauses in it in order to get our way. We introduced those Bills in due time and we will continue to do so.

[Translation]

**Mrs. Maily:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I think the Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria) mentioned a Bill or a change in the legislation passed in 1961—

**Mr. Boudria:** The answer is no.

**Mrs. Maily:** —because in 1961, the Government—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member but this is not a point of order.

**Mr. Rossi:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. There is a ten-minute question period provided after the Hon. Member's speech, so I think she should save her question for those ten minutes.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I told her it was not a point of order, and neither is this a point of order. The Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria).

**Mr. Boudria:** Mr. Speaker, as usual you are absolutely right. Not only was there no point of order, but the point was not a good one.

What I said was, that the legislation was passed in 1961 and improved subsequently by various Liberal Governments. Now that we have established that, I imagine the Hon. Member for Gatineau (Mrs. Maily) will get her facts straight next time.

I got as far as 1978, when further Liberal improvements were made to this legislation, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

In February of 1978 the formula establishing the maximum interest permitted was changed from a fixed rate and established semi-annually at the prime rate of the chartered banks plus 1 per cent. In April of 1978 the responsibility was transferred from the Department of Finance to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In July of 1980 the maximum total indebtedness outstanding was increased from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, the Liberals have a very good record of assisting small business and a very good record over-all for governing the country. The record of the Liberal Government is much better than the Conservative Government's will be after four years.

The issue which affects small business in the country the most right now is the price of gasoline. The increases which the Government has perpetrated on the small businesses of my riding are nothing short of scandalous, as my colleague, the Hon. Member for Montreal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart), so aptly said. Those issues are very important to the small-business people in my riding. They are very concerned with the price of gasoline. The Tories want to increase the price even more, Mr. Speaker. How will this assist small business?

The Government has not earned the trust of small business and will not do so in the next few months when it gives priority to large businesses instead of small ones. It has not acted in a proper manner to gain their confidence. The small-business people of my constituency are not pleased with the Government. I would venture to say that small-business people across the country do not like the Government. It has led the population of the country into error. It has made promises which it is not fulfilling.