

In order to meet the needs of small business truly, the Government must also increase the FBDB's funds for venture capital. There are hundreds of small businesses in Canada that are breaking new ground in the technology field but are unable to expand due to an inadequate equity base. This is where the FBDB should step in to provide small businesses with venture capital in order to ensure that new innovations are brought into the market-place.

Rather than competing with private sector lending institutions, the FBDB should represent the needs of all small businesses in Canada, wherever they may be located. As we all know, there are some regions of Canada that are more prosperous than others, but this is no reason a small business in a depressed area should be refused a reasonable loan request. Therefore, the FBDB has a unique role to play in the small business sector, which is why it should be expanded and not butchered as the Government is in the process of doing.

A greater commitment to small business would be reflected in the size of loans granted to small businesses. Over the past few years, the size of loans has continued to climb. This indicates that the FBDB seems to be moving away from the needs of small businesses and toward the needs of medium sized businesses. This course of action must be reversed in order to put the FBDB at the disposal of small business.

These programs are essential to the continued growth of small businesses. The FBDB must re-examine its mandate to ensure that it continues to put the needs of small business first. Small businesses need a national voice. The FBDB can and should act as the major representative of small business. In order to do this, the Government must reaffirm its commitment to the FBDB. Small business must be the main business of the FBDB.

• (1740)

Mr. Rey Pagtakhan (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, I support the Private Member's Motion No. 126 of April 3 which reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider developing a healthy small business sector in Canada by making small business the first priority of the Federal Business Development Bank.

Adjournment Debate

In addition to the arguments and comments made by speakers earlier which I support, I would like to add that making small business a priority of this bank would be of great benefit as well to new citizens, to new Canadians.

In this regard I would like to see that the bank truly assists in granting loans to the small businesses of new citizens as well, that the processing of the applications be done with great dispatch and promptness, that they be assisted with the required feasibility studies, and that the requirement to have personal properties, including homes, as a requirement for collateral be waived. Any cut to the funding of this Federal Business Development Bank will be detrimental to the interests of many new citizens and immigrants. I therefore commend the Hon. Member for introducing his motion which I wholly support.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The House has heard the terms of the motion of the Hon. Member for Okanagan—Similkameen—Merritt. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to call it six o'clock?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 38 deemed to have been moved.

EXTERNAL AID—REQUEST THAT WORLD SUMMIT BE HELD FOR BENEFIT OF CHILDREN

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, on April 18, I addressed a question to the Minister for External Relations (Mrs. Landry) requesting the Minister to sponsor a world summit for children. The year 1989 marks the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Child and is a most appropriate time to highlight the deteriorating circumstances that children