

Mr. Speaker: The suggestion has been made that we proceed with this Bill. It cannot be done without consent. I will put the question to the House. Is the House prepared to give unanimous consent to proceeding with this Bill?

Some Hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: That ends the matter. I do not need to take any more points of order on this particular matter, but I will certainly recognize the Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier).

[Translation]

Mr. Claude Lanthier (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, as the sponsor of the Bill, I approve the comments made by the New Democratic Party, which stated this was a collective Bill in this House. However, the Bill now before the House is not the same that was introduced previously. What we now have before us at this point, the amended Bill, is not the same legislation that passed the other day in this House and that eventually was turned down by the Senate and that came back in amended form.

Mr. Speaker, I am tremendously sorry that the long arm of the Liberal Party in the Senate blocked the bill and sent it back in amended form, it would have been possible to be fair both to the business side and the justice side, but since we cannot have unanimous consent in this House, I must yield to its will.

However, Mr. Speaker, let me tell you that people in LaSalle and Ville-Émard will remember for a long time the long arm of the federal Liberal Party in the Senate that blocked job creation in the constituency for people in LaSalle and Ville-Émard. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, we will remember that when the time comes. Happy Confederation Day!

[English]

Mr. Speaker: It may very well be a matter of regret for some Hon. Members that consent could not be obtained. Clearly, however, consent has not been obtained and that is the end of the issue. The Hon. Member for Fundy—Royal (Mr. Corbett) is seeking the floor. I will hear the Hon. Member.

Mr. Corbett: Mr. Speaker, I just want to add my voice of concern to the issue that is now before the House. As the House will recall, it was brought before the House just two weeks ago. It was received at first reading on one day, and the second day that it came before the House it passed second and third reading.

I believe substantial concern has been expressed by various Members in the House and, with all due respect to our friends from the NDP, my experience of yesterday shows that they obviously cannot be trusted to favourably put forth a position—

Mr. Speaker: All that was before the House was a very simple proposition, it is that this particular Bill be allowed to proceed.

Small Businesses Loans Act

For whatever reason, there is not consent. It may be a matter of regret or something else, but that is the end of the issue. I would ask Hon. Members to co-operate in not rising further on that particular matter.

I know that the Hon. Member for LaSalle (Mr. Lanthier) has very strong feelings on the matter. He has expressed himself. I think that is all that the Chamber can deal with at this time.

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[Translation]

SMALL BUSINESSES LOANS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Côté (Langelier) that Bill C-63, an Act to amend the Small Businesses Loans Act, be read the second time and referred to a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Alfonso Gagliano (Saint-Léonard—Anjou): Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to deal with Bill C-63, an Act to amend the Small Businesses Loans Act.

First of all, I should like to say that we are getting used to seeing this Conservative Government coming up at the very last minute with amendments to the Small Businesses Loans Act. Earlier in its mandate, in the Spring of 1985, the former Minister of State for Small Businesses and Tourism (Mr. Valcourt) had introduced a Bill to amend the Small Businesses Loans Act not for the purpose of improving it, but for limiting the possibility of Canadians taking advantage of this legislation to help finance small businesses.

What the Government was proposing at the time was to limit the amount of the guarantee. Previously, we had small businesses loans which were fully guaranteed by the Government but because of the amendment introduced by this Conservative Government in the Spring of 1985, the small businesses loans were guaranteed up to 85 per cent only. Madam Speaker, we indicated at the time that such a measure would reduce loan activities. Statistics now available show that we were right.

If we refer to the last report which the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion published on April 15, 1987, we see that, between April 1 and December 31, 1986, 6,780 loans were granted by chartered banks to small businesses under the Small Businesses Loans Act for a total amount of \$557,196,962.

Compared with the same period in 1985, when there had been 18,444 loans totalling \$560,133,192, there had been a considerable decrease between 1986 and 1985. This was following the Government's amendments to the Small Businesses Loans Act.