

Mississauga - Federal Constituency

# Abbott plans boost for small business

By SID RODAWAY

Mississauga Liberal MP Tony Abbott got down to work within a matter of hours of his appointment as minister of state for small business last week with the immediate announcement of a 10-point plan aimed at enhancing small-business entrepreneurs in Canada.

He was in Europe as the federal minister of consumer and corporate affairs when Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau announced his latest cabinet shuffle.

Abbott returned to Ottawa on Saturday, Sept. 17 to take over his small-business posting under the new minister of trade and commerce, Jack Horner.

The sub-ministry was considered a natural for Abbott, a small businessman himself and former lobbyist for the Retail Council of Canada.

Shortly after his return to Ottawa, he left for Edmonton to deliver a speech originally written for his predecessor, Len Marchand. Ministry staff flew along to brief Abbott on the current goings-on in the department.

Speaking before the an-

petition bill to be introduced in Parliament this fall will strengthen the ability of small, emerging businesses to compete and survive.

It was the competition bill on which Abbott had been working as the minister of consumer and corporate affairs when the cabinet shuffle took place.

"I am in no way an enemy of big business in this country. But let us be quite aware that we will never have a reformed competition policy, if only its voice is heard."

He told the chamber of commerce delegates that the solutions to small-business problems do not lie in more direct government control or in special legislation, but rather in the development of "a new spirit of co-operation among business and government."

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nual meeting of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Abbott departed from his prepared text to add some personal comments on a subject he knows well.

He said that "without a vigorous growing opportunity for small businessmen to thrive, our hopes for a growing economy are doomed." He noted that the new com-

