

tion. It is a profitable, successful corporation that is doing its part within its mandate.

What is the impact on the budget announced yesterday in this House by the Minister of Finance? There was not a penny noted in the budget. No information was available in that budget on what effect this announcement would have on our budgetary situation in Canada. Obviously the inclusion in the budget was simply an opportunity to put some comments on record. When we have an opportunity to look at the impact I think we could see a further increase in the deficit. What preparations have been made in preparing for the sale of the Crown corporation?

We noted a few things in the media. Yesterday President Hopper said the move was a surprise, not unexpected but a surprise nonetheless. Departmental officials in the lock-up yesterday said that the inclusion in the budget was hastily put together, that it was a last-minute decision.

Last night in the lobby outside the Chamber after the budget was introduced I said to the minister of privatization: "I am looking forward to seeing the legislation". He smiled at me and said: "So am I".

I would like to make two suggestions on the minister's statement. He talked about the removal of the public policy role for the Crown corporation. We recognize that the energy sector in Canada has a great need for public policy direction and that Canadians will demand that in the future just as they did in 1975.

I want to talk briefly about the financial flexibility of the corporation and the sale of shares. This can be done from the public sector. We have to recognize that the Canadian taxpayers are already the shareholders of Petro-Canada and they demand the return on their investment. If Petro-Canada is to succeed further, Canadians collectively have to benefit from the success of the corporation. The return of benefits only to those who can afford to buy the shares is totally outside of the collective need of the country. We need the benefits of the profits of Petro-Canada to help finance the shortfalls in education, health care and all those other items that this government is attacking in this budget, including the loss of environmental matters.

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They talk about no profits. A return on an investment to the shareholder is obviously a picture of profitability. If there is any return on the investment, it has to go directly to the benefit of the Canadian people who own the resource that we are using in the public sector.

New Democrats have no confidence in this government's intentions. We serve notice that we will fight this legislation to sell all or part of this important Canadian corporation.

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STRIKING COMMITTEE

TABLING OF THIRTY-SECOND REPORT

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Government House Leader): Madam Speaker, I have the honour to present the thirty-second report of the Striking Committee.

[Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.]

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[Translation]

CRIMINAL RECORDS ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

Hon. John McDermid (for the Solicitor General of Canada) moved for leave to table Bill C-64, an Act to amend the Criminal Records Act.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Shall the hon. minister have leave to introduce this bill?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt this motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: On division.

Motion agreed to, bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Champagne): When shall this bill be read the second time? At the next sitting of the House?

Some hon. members: Agreed.