

[Text]

Mr. Danson: I think my time is up. Actually I have a number of questions, but they are more in technical areas. I think the message has been made.

Could I ask one more question? Are you suggesting that the most equitable tax system is not necessarily the best tax system for growth?

Mr. Sharwood: I think we say here that we concur with the—I am looking for the reference to the emphasis of the government. We acknowledge the need for greater equity than there has been in the tax system. But I think that there should be flexibility in the tax system to permit situations where you allocate capital and management and money to areas which you think can be useful in the long-run interests of the country.

You have had the example of the mineral industry, and this concession that we are talking about here is not a very expensive one. I think what we are saying is that because it is such a small restricted area, we feel that the rewards to be gained by picking out this particular type of way of rewarding the entrepreneur is worth doing in the total context of the other things that the government is trying to do, and with which, broadly speaking, we agree in terms of equity, and for the masses of the Canadian population.

Mr. Danson: May I just ask one more question, Mr. Chairman? I must say I feel an empathy here, and I think that there is an important point being made. The question to which we have to direct ourselves—I cannot speak for anyone else. But certainly the need for growth, and the need to have a growing and expanding economy, are the only things that will produce the sort of social benefits that we think our society deserves. But at what sort of price? At what time?

This really goes back to Mr. Kaplan's questioning earlier today. I would be interested in hearing your opinion, because you are young people. You are entrepreneurs, but with a social conscience, I would presume. What sort of balance should there be? This is a pretty broad question. We have been sitting months trying to decide that. But people have asked us to decide what sort of percentage of the gross national product will go to taxes. That is different from expenditure.

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Mr. Sharwood: I think we will pass on that question.

Mr. Danson: Yes, I guess it is too tough. All right. It is not a fair one. I am sorry.

[Interpretation]

M. Danson: Le temps pour parler est écoulé. J'aurais d'autres questions mais elles sont d'ordre technique.

Je voudrais poser une dernière question: Pensez-vous que le système d'impôt le plus équitable serait le meilleur pour la croissance?

M. Sharwood: Nous savons qu'il est nécessaire d'avoir un système fiscal plus juste. Je pense que le système fiscal devrait être plus souple pour permettre la distribution d'argent et de capitaux, la nomination d'administrateurs dans les domaines où ils peuvent être utiles et ce, dans l'intérêt du pays.

La concession dont nous parlons n'est pas très onéreuse, comme il s'agit d'un domaine limité, les gains que l'on peut en tirer, en fournissant certaines concessions à l'entrepreneur, valent davantage que ce que le gouvernement peut faire, comp'te tenu des concessions que l'on doit accorder à la masse des Canadiens pour des raisons de justice.

M. Danson: Une dernière question, monsieur le président. Il y a quelque chose d'important. La question que nous devons résoudre est celle-ci. Je ne peux parler pour personne d'autre. Il s'agit de favoriser une économie riche et toujours croissante qui permettra d'obtenir des avantages sociaux. Quel est le prix que l'on doit payer, quand doit-on payer ce prix?

C'est la question de M. Kaplan. J'aimerais connaître votre opinion car vous êtes jeune. Vous êtes un entrepreneur avec une conscience sociale. Ça fait des mois que nous en parlons. Quel pourcentage du produit national brut doit être consacré à la fiscalité?

M. Sharwood: Cette question est trop difficile, je m'excuse.

M. Danson: Bien, je m'incline.