

Government Orders

recognizes the benefits of worker participation for both labour and business”.

The NDP government in Ontario is saying there are benefits when workers are involved in the participation and the ownership of companies. If the Ontario NDP government has recognized that and accepted it, why is the federal NDP government adopting a position 100 per cent opposite?

Mr. Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, it will be. I would just note that yes, I am in complete agreement with those proposals and programs by the Ontario NDP government. I think they are long overdue and I heartily applaud them.

I would simply point out that they have absolutely nothing in common with the bogus share offering that the government proposes now be granted to the employees of CUPW.

When the Ontario NDP speaks of investment and ownership it means investment and ownership and control. It means that if you have part of a company you get to direct the company in direct proportion to the part that you own.

• (1440)

The benefits of worker involvement are precisely that when the workers are involved in the direction of a company, there are social benefits to be gained. What Bill C-73 provides is that either the employees of Canada Post can have their money sucked out for these shares that give them no rights whatsoever, or they can simply be granted the shares, still with no rights whatsoever.

To say that has absolutely anything to do with worker ownership and participation is—I will not say misleading—in error.

Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise in the House to discuss Bill C-73, an act to amend the Canada Post Corporation Act.

This bill would permit the sale of up to about 10 per cent of Canada Post Corporation to employees and this basically would be accomplished by establishing an employee share saving plan.

On reviewing the Canada Post Corporation Act that was put in place when Canada Post was created, there

were five different points which were properly put. The first point is the desirability of improving and extending its product and services in light of the development in the field of communications.

I would like to state that I had the pleasure of visiting Canada Post recently and I was most impressed by the quality of equipment and the quality of technology. I might say that it is perhaps one of the finest technologies that exists anywhere around the world.

I was informed that many corporations from around the world come to Canada to visit Canada Post. They see the technology that is being used in terms of its tracking of delivery and in terms of the monitoring of the services.

A second point is the need to conduct its operation on a self-sustaining financial basis while providing a standard of service that would meet the needs of the people of Canada and that is similar with respect to communities of the same size. That by itself is a very noble objective and I would suggest that really there is nothing in the mandate that will require Canada Post to generate profit.

The only reference to the business aspect of it is that it has to be self-sustained in terms of its revenues and expenditures. Canada Post, being a Crown corporation, is in charge of providing services to the public.

Any extra funds or any surplus revenues generated can and should be used in order to enhance the services that Canada Post is providing to the public. Or, the extra funds can and should be used as an investment in future technologies or as an investment in research and development in a way in which Canada Post can remain on the leading edge and as a leader around the world in providing quality services to the public.

We have noticed something recently in Canada Post which is not its fault. It was pressured into this situation. We have seen services shrinking in a way. Nowadays, if a new development has taken place, the resident would have to go to a central location in order to pick up their mail. When you look at the over-all community, other mail persons still deliver the mail from door to door.

There is already a lack of standards when it comes to the services that Canada Post is providing to the community.