

[Texte]

One of the questions that we have been asking them before this Committee is whether we would not get more return per dollar of tax concession if we had our choice. If there was to be an immediate choice, and if these tax concessions were not provided in just the area that you are talking about, the young growing industries that are growing rather than depleting, are developing skills that are going to remain, rather than be shifted to another country, or just fall apart after the mine is depleted. In other words, you have a viewpoint on whether the tax dollars in terms of favorable tax treatment could be better utilized by small growing secondary industry rather than by the extractive industry.

The Chairman: Mr. Danson, was that a question?

Mr. Sharwood: Do you want to ask that?

Mr. Danson: Yes, I was asking for the viewpoint, Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Mr. Sharwood.

Mr. Sharwood: I think that is quite a choice. I was hoping Mr. Griffiths could answer that, because he is in an industry which has shown a rapid growth.

The Chairman: Mr. Griffiths.

Mr. Griffiths: Mr. Danson, thinking back on all that has been said, I come back to my original point that part and parcel of what we are talking about throughout our brief, and what Mr. Dobson is saying, is that we swing from large companies to mining companies and to entrepreneurs as really our competitive environment, and this goes back largely to what was said today in the investment briefs.

I think part of our major concern, and the reason why we even formed this association, was to ensure that any tax reform does two things—that it makes Canada competitive for money and for management.

I do not think you have to talk about the entrepreneur. You just look at the companies that have been restructured, or at the branch companies started up here by other countries. You have to provide the incentive to get the managerial talent here. Taking the long view, is Canada going to be the place that the European guy that John Dobson talks about is going to come to, or is he going to go to Australia, or is he going to go to the United States where he has the benefit of the scale of market, if nothing else? I think this is the important over-all consideration.

[Interprétation]

Nous aimerions savoir s'il y aurait plus de ristourne par dollar de concession fiscale si nous avions le choix. Si ces concessions fiscales ne sont pas offertes, les jeunes industries qui se développent, créent des compétences qui seront utilisées au lieu de s'en aller ailleurs. Sinon, elles risqueraient de s'en aller une fois que la mine est épuisée. Autrement dit, les recettes fiscales pourraient être utilisées pour les industries secondaires plutôt que pour les industries d'extraction.

Le président: Était-ce une question?

M. Sharwood: Voulez-vous la poser?

M. Danson: Oui.

Le président: Monsieur Sharwood.

M. Sharwood: M. Griffiths pourrait répondre à cette question, car il travaille dans une industrie qui s'est développée rapidement.

Le président: Monsieur Griffiths.

M. Griffiths: Monsieur Danson, après ceci, je reviens à ce que je disais avant. Nous passons des grosses compagnies aux compagnies minières. Les entrepreneurs sont nos véritables concurrents. C'est ce qui a été dit aujourd'hui dans le mémoire sur les investissements.

Notre préoccupation majeure, la raison pour laquelle nous avons formé cette association, c'était de s'assurer que toute réforme fiscale aurait deux objectifs, rendre le Canada concurrentiel aussi bien pour les crédits que pour les administrateurs.

Il n'est pas nécessaire de parler des hommes d'affaires, mais des compagnies dont la structure a été modifiée et des filiales qui ont été créées au Canada par d'autres pays. Il faut avoir nos propres administrateurs ici, au Canada. A long terme, est-ce que le Canada sera un endroit où les gens viendront. Au lieu d'aller en Australie ou aux États-Unis où le marché est beaucoup plus grand. Voilà ce qui est important.