

Commons. I believe that case has been overstated. If you will excuse the expression, Mr. Speaker, I am just bootlegging a few thoughts on some of the outlandish and unfair statements that have been directed at the Department.

Nonetheless, the Budget is also addressing the goal of more fairness in tax administration. Through the consultation process we are learning how that might come about and I think we will see great improvements through new legislation, through new directions and in new examinations of the system. The consultation process is vital, particularly if it is carried out with the positive view of making the system better. That is what we were elected to do.

● (1125)

I do not even object to the fact that the Opposition has a task force going across Canada to test the views of Canadians on the tax system. My only hope is that this task force will do good and not simply conduct a witch hunt; that it will not just reinforce a bias or just be a vehicle to allow the malcontents in the taxpaying sector of the economy to use that platform to receive all kinds of publicity which really would be used to attack the Department, serving no end and giving a voice to a group of people who have not always played fair with the tax system.

The Budget talks about more fairness in the tax administration system. I believe the Opposition, in what it is doing, has a chance to do either great good or great harm. We are going into an election year and, Mr. Speaker, I believe all of us, while we will fight our partisan political battles, must not do so at the expense of the good of the country by overstatement and by overzealousness in the wrong areas. While the Budget has pointed out that we are experiencing an upturn in the economy, that we have a feeling of confidence, we also know that there is a certain fragility to it. I believe this is a time for yeoman service on the part of all of us in this House to make the system work better.

I would like to speak now about the plan put forth in the Budget to aid home owners. We have all been looking for some way to be of help to something which is near and dear to all of us as Canadians, home ownership. We found as we went through that period of very drastic fluctuation in interest rates that there were a lot of people with great problems and in dire circumstances regarding their most precious possession, their home. While the Budget has made some suggestions as to how one might insure against rising interest rates if they should go beyond a certain point, which will give some stability, I believe, it should be noted that the Budget also takes a look at how the investment sector might be encouraged to go for the longer term mortgage. I feel that is probably one of the more important features of the Budget, although it does not seem so sensational to many of us until the prospect is really examined. When we as home owners had mortgages with terms of 20 years, 25 years and 30 years, it gave us a great feeling of stability. We knew where we were at. I do not believe you can ever turn the clock back, but I do believe there is a way we can

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move toward longer term mortgages, and that would be to everyone's good.

I support the Budget because I feel its theme "partnership of growth", is well named and accurate. I believe the Budget does help encourage the feeling of confidence which I view to be fairly dominant in the country.

Mr. Kristiansen: Mr. Speaker, I believe the gentleman who just spoke is the Hon. Member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon (Mr. Masters). I would like to ask the Hon. Member, with regard to his comment on labour-management committees and profit sharing, whether he is aware of what initiatives the Government may now be taking in order to implement some of the measures proposed in the recent Throne Speech of the Government? Is the Hon. Member aware of whether or not those crown corporations, in which the Government has a total interest are living up to the commitments in that Throne Speech to give their employees some share and some voice in the management of those corporations?

If the Hon. Member is not aware of any such progress—I certainly am not and I have been asking regularly—how does he believe that because employee-employer profit sharing is introduced into the private sector, there is going to be any voice for those employees in the management of that operation, including how the moneys which they invest will be used, whether or not they will be allocated to dividends, spread among the employees, used for the build-up of the company, or used in any other way? Our experience in B.C. shows that that sort of operation can be a total con job and I would like to know just where he gets his faith from.

● (1130)

Mr. Masters: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what the Hon. Member has suggested. I think it is far easier, because of the money factor, to get into a profit-sharing plan in the private sector. But I think, too, that because the Budget furthers the idea of labour-management relations, and if the Government is going to be true to its own code so to speak, we must in parallel, as I believe we are doing, as imperfect as the system might be, begin to look for that same kind of labour-management investigation within the Public Service. If we are not, we should be.

Perhaps this will explain one of the reasons I took off a little bit on those who are critical of Revenue Canada, not that any function of Government is beyond criticism. However, it does nothing to enhance the feeling of co-operation; it puts it back into an adversarial position because we as parliamentarians have a role to play in labour-management relations involving the Government of Canada and the Public Service. If our attitude is the cliché that the Public Service is overpaid and underworked, and all of these wrong, wrong impressions, then we have not done any good.

The bottom line is, how do we improve upon labour-management relations between the Government and the Public Service? I think the point is well taken and the Hon. Member has shown an initiative in encouraging Government to look at