

Government Orders

In countries where there is the most success with labour and management we see that labour has had an opportunity to participate in some sense of accountability in the system. That is why I believe this initiative in the bill will be a positive one.

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Madam Speaker, I find something really very troubling about the exchange that occurred between the Liberal member and the hon. member subsequent to his speech.

I cannot believe the speech we heard earlier could have been written by anybody except a press officer for Canada Post. I cannot possibly believe these two gentlemen on both sides of the House could regard the paternalistic arrangement and relationship between management and labour described in the member's speech as an appropriate one for stimulating good productivity.

If they have not learned the lessons of Alcan, Chrysler, Ford and a number of other productive industries in this country, that the relationship between management and labour should be a partnership with a common purpose of serving the customer, then they do not understand at all. They do not understand that giving employees a 10 per cent shareholding without any voting power is no contribution to improving productivity and labour relations in the decision-making process at all.

It is ridiculous and absurd to suggest that workers are so stupid as to believe that 10 per cent of non-voting shares will give them effective influence.

I cannot understand how that member or the member on the other side could believe that this would overcome the distrust that has existed in the post office for years, highlighted by the fact that post office management said that it had a wage offer on the table which it withdrew in the face of arbitration. It think this penny-ante stuff is going to help labour relations in the post office. I say there should be a reform that recognizes that labour and management have a common responsibility and that is to serve the Canadian public. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers is ready to do that. Let the management wake up, let this government wake up and let those on the other side of this House wake up and understand what a good labour relationship is all about.

Mr. Mills: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Last night when we debated this issue there was not a single member of the New Democratic Party here when I gave my speech in which I said that I oppose this bill. The member is totally taking things out of context.

Madam Deputy Speaker: It is a nice Friday morning, is it not?

Mr. O'Kurley: Madam Speaker, with regard to the member's comments about labour relations, it is important for members of the House and also for all Canadians to recognize that success is not achieved by the old model of confrontation. Effective service to Canadians is not achieved by the NDP's preferred model of confrontation between labour and management.

When we look at the strongest economies in the world, Japan and Germany for example, one of the things that we find in those economies is a co-operative model, co-operation between management and labour. This initiative by the Government of Canada is the first step in achieving that co-operation which is necessary.

Often we see labour posturing for a strike and wanting that confrontation. It puts millions of dollars into strike funds. It would be important for the NDP, as representatives in many cases of labour—taking its marching orders from labour—to encourage labour groups to invest those strike funds into shares in corporations. It is important to recognize also that you cannot have authority without accountability. Buying shares in a company is one way of assuming the accountability that management always assumes.

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Madam Speaker, I must say I am not thrilled to participate in this debate, but I am glad I am participating in it at the moment after hearing my colleague's speech from the Conservative Party suggesting that his idea of good management-labour relations is to have a chart. If you behave well you get a star beside your name at the end of the week. This somehow is supposed to cause elation and productivity among the workers.

I have heard a lot of talk about labour-management relations and I have listened to a lot of speakers suggest how to get more productivity out of their operation and encourage participation at a very high level among their employees. I have never once heard the set of recom-