

One, the Chairman, who is a member of the official opposition, should at all times endeavour to be absolutely fair and impartial.

Two, witnesses called before the committee, whether they be ministers, deputy ministers, experts, civil servants, or members of the public, should be treated with respect and consideration.

In the past few years this committee has not indulged in McCarthy-like tactics, and I hope it never will.

Three, if this committee is to serve the purpose for which it was set up, our members must be hard working, at all times cooperative, and endeavour to keep their party affiliations under control in the general interest of the country.

Gentlemen, we have a real job to do on behalf of the Canadian taxpayer, and I ask for your full cooperation.

I should like to just add a few words in French.

Le PRÉSIDENT: Notre comité est très important du fait qu'il considère toutes les dépenses du gouvernement. Il offre à l'auditeur général une occasion unique de présenter ses vues sur ces dépenses.

Depuis quatre ans, notre comité a travaillé ferme, comme une équipe où chaque membre apportait son entière collaboration sans tenir compte des différents partis politiques. Il a toujours su placer les intérêts de l'État au-dessus des intérêts particuliers.

Je suis convaincu qu'il continuera d'en être ainsi et que le comité aura, encore cette année, un souci extrême d'être juste envers les témoins, dont la tâche est extrêmement difficile.

M. ALEXIS CARON: Tous ces rapports-là sont à notre disposition?

Le PRÉSIDENT: Oui.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, at this time I should like to introduce the first distinguished witness of a series of prominent individuals here this morning, and he is Mr. Ken Taylor who is, as we all know, the deputy minister of finance and receiver general of Canada. In fact, he is so well known just a few words of introduction I am sure will not be considered inappropriate.

He is a graduate and professor of McMaster University and was at one time secretary of the wartime prices and trade board, writer on economic subjects for many years, secretary and advisor to many government delegations and a more or less constant attendant at imperial conferences. Ken Taylor has carried a very heavy load for many years as deputy minister of finance. We asked him here this morning in the hope that he would just make a few remarks about his job, his duties and the objectives of his department.

Mr. K. W. TAYLOR (*Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance*): Mr. Chairman, I am not accustomed to getting so much applause. You have suggested, sir, that certain senior officials should explain to the committee briefly and in general terms the role and functions of the finance department, with particular reference to those aspects of the department which come before this committee for examination and report. I shall describe very briefly the general role and functions of the Department of Finance and, if you are agreeable, sir, I will ask Mr. Steele, assistant deputy minister of the Department of Finance and secretary of the treasury board, to outline briefly the operations of the treasury board, and Mr. Balls who is comptroller of the treasury, to describe briefly the functions of his office.

As I think you all know, the main responsibilities of the Minister of Finance are related to financial, fiscal and budgetary policies. He also has considerable responsibilities in the area of broad economic policies, both international and domestic. He also has some operational responsibilities, but these are relatively minor compared with the large operating departments such as the Department of Transport, the Post Office, public works and so on.