

in which they work and create a sense of entrepreneurial spirit.

It will build the level of pride by employees for the success of their company. It will develop a long-term commitment for the company, its products and quality of service.

These are the reasons I believe all Canadians should be enthusiastic about the opportunities offered by this measure. This spells out improved service for Canadians, improved employee-management relations and a healthier Canada Post.

People want to be proud. I believe that Canadians in general and particularly employees are seeing that Canada Post is becoming a place they can be proud of.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the member for his recognition of the qualities of the postal system in this country.

I too share his view. I stated on the floor of the House last night that the post office, in terms of productivity and efficiency, probably has one of the highest rankings of any organization in Canada. I think a lot of Canadians are really surprised when I stand and say that, but by using the criteria that business uses to judge productivity the post office comes out ahead most of the time.

Of course we salute all the things people within the post office are doing within their community. We salute the efforts of management to improve the morale and to improve the productivity.

The problem I have with this attempt to experiment with equity participation, a principle that I support, is that I do not see anything in the bill which talks about the criteria for assessing the value of the shares. How is the value of a share to be determined? To me, I just do not see anything in it that would set up the criteria.

Another point would be shareholders' rights. Often people get involved in share option schemes and sometimes they do not have any rights. That could come back to haunt the government.

A third point I would like to ask the member about has to do with the federal presence. I need the member's attention because it seems to me this is the most serious problem we have with the postal system in this country.

Government Orders

In 1980 we put the Canada word mark on every postal unit in this country. Whether it was a post office, a post box or a truck that delivered the mail, we put the Canada word mark on it. It was a symbol of the national government's presence in not just the larger communities but small towns. The Canada word mark is the symbol of this great country and of this great government.

• (1030)

A few months ago the Prime Minister was talking about patriotism. I support his view that we should be more patriotic.

I would like the member to give me his reasons as to why the post office was stripped of the word "Canada" in close to 40,000 units across Canada. They were stripped of the Canada wordmark. In all postal operations across Canada, the word "Canada" was painted out on trucks and post office boxes. They were stripped of it.

We spent millions of dollars of taxpayers' money in 1980 to put the word "Canada" up there to give people, especially those in disadvantaged regions, smaller regions and smaller towns of our country, a feeling that the national government was present.

On the value of shares, what criteria are to be used? On the rights of shareholders, what rights are shareholders to have? Finally why was "Canada" stripped from the postal service?

Mr. O'Kurley: Madam Speaker, the hon. member opposite asked a question with regard to the details about the shares, how the dividends will be determined, and so on. Obviously there would be consultations with Treasury Board and the Department of Finance.

Canada Post is an arm's length Crown corporation. It is owned by the Government of Canada. Therefore the Government of Canada through Treasury Board and through the Department of Finance would have some input into how those details would be determined.

In terms of the offering of shares to its employees, it is important to point out that Canada Post is a corporation. As I mentioned in my earlier remarks, Canada Post is a business operating in a competitive business environment. In that vein the whole aspect of relations between labour and management is critical.