

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee

I am pleased to be able to present to the Committee the Main Estimates of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission for the 1986-87 fiscal year.

Last year at this time I noted in my remarks that my aim in shaping the policies of my department was generally the same as that of the government. That is, to stimulate economic renewal in Canada. One of the ways I planned to do this was to either amend some of the laws my department administers, or introduce new ones.

The need for this kind of initiative has since been underlined in one of the papers tabled with the May 1985 Budget. Entitled New Management Initiatives, the paper points out that although Consumer and Corporate Affairs is relatively small in terms of expenditures, it has a very pervasive effect on the lives of Canadians.

Much of the legislation CCAC administers forms the economic framework for the marketplace in Canada. This framework legislation is necessary to maintain a healthy, efficient and fair market system across the country.

As the paper states, and I quote: "Administration of business framework legislation can either help or disrupt the marketplace." The paper goes on to note, however, that this legal framework is becoming increasingly out of date.