

women who wind up in this situation. It is strictly union busting.

• (1320)

Thousands of people in the community of Powell River signed a petition to attempt to get this government to act because they recognize the absolute injustice. This is not a question of the fairness of the bargaining process. This is an absolute distortion of any sense of justice there. These women need the help of this government. They need advocacy services from the Department of Labour. They need advocacy services from the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. All women trapped in this vicious circle of union busting and discrimination and exploitation in the chartered banks of Canada need some protection. It can only come through a public inquiry into this activity. It is 22 women here today, it is 22 more women in another community. They partition them off, branch by branch, bust the union and get rid of the women who they no longer want in there because of the union organizing or even a hint of it.

If the chartered banks were playing fair with their workers and with the women in many cases who work in those banks, there would be the right to bargain collectively with their employer, but they have effectively destroyed it. This budget goes a distance in helping to even erode their position further with the Minister responsible for the Status of Women refusing to meet with them, refusing to countenance in any way a public inquiry into the exploitation in those chartered banks, particularly the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

In Powell River the citizens of that community are shifting to unionize financial institutions, saying at least in the credit union there is enormous growth going on and very positive activity because of this harshness.

The second thing is there is a movement in that community and other areas to transfer RRSPs out, to resist any purchase of RRSPs from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

Finally, before the member answers the comment, there are the kinds of promotions that have been going on. Citizens should get behind cancelling these activities, no more RRSPs with the CIBC while their labour

practices are so nefarious, no more purchase or acquisition of arrow gold Visas put on by Air Canada and the CIBC. There must be some action on the part of this government to help citizens who are attempting to help these women and to assist the women themselves against this exploitation.

Mr. McCreath: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how much of my 10 minutes is left. I am not sure if my hon. friend was asking questions or giving his own speech, but I listened with great care nevertheless and I will certainly take advantage of what time remains.

He raised a number of issues and questions, and I will try to respond to all of them, though I think perhaps the issues on the status of women are kind of outside the realm of a budget debate.

He talked about polls and I would remind him, there is but one poll that counts and that is the one on the election day. I would remind him that in the last two general elections this party has done extremely well in those polls.

Mr. Skelly (North Island—Powell River): On a point of order. I know my hon. colleague erred when he said the matters affecting the status of women were outside the scope of the Conservative budget. I know that he wants to immediately correct that statement. He does not want that to appear in the record.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Thorkelson): That is not a point of order. That is furthering the debate.

Mr. McCreath: Mr. Speaker, what I said was this was a debate on the budget, not on the status of women. That is what I said.

My hon. friend concerns himself with the funding of advocacy groups and organizations. One of the things that it seems to me that has gone on in this country is that anybody who wants funding from the government gets it. I wonder at what point there is an appropriate role for the citizens of Canada, people who have a strong interest in whatever that particular advocacy group is about, instead of having their money impounded in taxation and handed out to advocacy groups, should fund their own advocacy groups.