

*Oral Questions*

that time cut a billion dollars of spending in the public and placed it back in the treasury of Alberta. That billion dollars is helping the taxpayer of Alberta today.

I want to tell the Minister of Finance and also the Prime Minister today that there is a message from Canadians, from the tax rallies that I have attended in the last week or so. I want to tell them something about taxes.

If the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance increase the taxes to Canadians, they are going to bring on themselves and the government of this country what they call the triple-R whammy. They are going to resist. They are going to react. They are going to revolt in terms of any kind of tax increases. If that is not good enough, they are going to reform this country.

Will the Prime Minister stand in his place today and tell Canadians that there will be no tax increases in 1995?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I know that the member did not mean his words to come forth as they did. He is not encouraging Canadians to revolt. I am sure that is not the case. I would not interpret it in that way. Revolting is not a word that one would use when applied to the Reform Party.

There is some time between now and when the budget will be brought down. The Prime Minister stated it very clearly. We know that Canadians do not want to see themselves burdened with further taxes. That has been made very clear. The Prime Minister stated it.

He also knows that until I bring down the budget, I am not really going to respond to individual questions.

● (1440)

I understand that the Reform Party is desperately trying to get ahead of the movement that is so far ahead of it. It should not take the time in this House to ask hypothetical questions that I cannot respond to until such time as I have brought down the budget.

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[Translation]

#### CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

**Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Prime Minister.

The president of the CBC met with the members of the Liberal caucus, at his request, on Friday to discuss the CBC's budget. According to the chairman of the Quebec caucus himself, Mr. Manera discussed the CBC's coverage of the referendum on sovereignty.

Does the Prime Minister acknowledge that the president of the CBC made a serious error in judgment by discussing the CBC's coverage of the referendum campaign in camera with the

members of his party, in total disregard of the CBC's requirement to remain independent and neutral?

**Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, the caucus met with the president of the CBC at his request. He requested the meeting. They asked questions as they are entitled to do. You can ask me questions in this House. You can ask the ministers questions. We will pass them on.

We want news coverage to be fair across the country and that the CBC be allowed, within its mandate, to do what it wants. We just want it to be fair for everybody and we want all viewpoints heard and not just one. In fact, we are asking all the broadcasters in Canada to give everyone an equal opportunity.

Up to this point, provincial government money has been spent on distributing pamphlets—not the pamphlets of the Liberal Party—but the pamphlets of the Parti Québécois and the other parties. The system is unfair. We want the debate to be fair and both campaigns to be given exactly the same coverage.

**Mrs. Suzanne Tremblay (Rimouski—Témiscouata, BQ):** Mr. Speaker, I was not the one who described the Liberal Party's mail-out as pamphleteering.

Given that Mr. Manera has put himself in a situation which is to say the least vulnerable and delicate, does the Prime Minister intend to use harsh measures by asking for his resignation, as the Premier of Quebec has asked, in the interest of maintaining the CBC's integrity and autonomy?

**Right Hon. Jean Chrétien (Prime Minister, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, I have full confidence in Mr. Manera; he is an experienced civil servant with long service at the CBC who asked, in the interest of defending his organization, to meet with members to explain the role of the CBC. It is quite normal for members to have asked him questions regarding the work of the CBC. I have not spoken to Mr. Manera since he became president and I do not intend to speak to him either, nor will my wife.

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[English]

#### TAXATION

**Mr. Herb Grubel (Capilano—Howe Sound, Ref.):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance keeps saying that he will not raise taxes, just close loopholes. Canadians see right through this public relations gimmick.

If a policy hurts like a tax increase, if a policy raises revenue like a tax increase, it is a tax increase. Canadians do not want higher taxes under any guise. Will the minister neutralize the effects of closing tax loopholes by lowering other taxes?

**Hon. Paul Martin (Minister of Finance and Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development—Quebec, Lib.):** Mr. Speaker, both of the third party's critics on financial matters are people I respect a great deal. I enjoy discussions with them and I enjoy this in Question Period.