

with the honourable nature of Parliament that the people of this country expect?

● (1150)

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has chosen to ignore your admonition and to make wild allegations.

He should know that it is not the RCMP but the Department of National Revenue which is responsible for collecting back taxes.

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill.

**Mr. Malone:** Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member has been permitted to ask a question. The Minister has replied. The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill.

**Mr. Malone:** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Birds Hill.

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**CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION AND  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
LOSS OF QUEBEC CITY RADIO STATION'S LICENCE

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Communications who is responsible for the CRTC.

**Mr. Malone:** The Minister of Revenue has no honour at all. He should resign.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Blaikie:** I am just waiting for the Hon. Member for Crowfoot to calm down, Mr. Speaker.

The Minister will be aware of the FM station in Quebec City, CJMF that will lose its licence to broadcast at midnight tonight, due to the CRTC ruling that CJMF has contravened its promise of performance. CJMF in Quebec City has an audience of over 300,000 people. They have collected names on a petition, to the tune of 142,000.

[*Translation*]

Does the Minister intend to take action to allow that station to broadcast until the case is heard in the Supreme Court?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I know exactly what kind of suggestion the Hon. Member would like to make. If he referred to the Broadcasting Act he would see what are the cabinet's powers as far as the decisions of the CRTC are concerned. He would see for

*Oral Questions*

example that the cabinet cannot interfere in the delivery or renewal of a permit or its amendment.

Parliament has not given the cabinet the power to intervene when the renewal of a permit is denied. Therefore, the government cannot take any action at the moment considering the quasi-judicial nature of an organization such as the CRTC.

[*English*]

COMMISSION'S DECISIONS

**Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill):** Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister why it is that the CRTC gets tough on a music station, when it does not get tough on pornography, or Canadian content regulations on TV? There are plenty of things on which we would like to see the CRTC get tough but it does not do anything. Here we have this one instance where we have 142,000 people indicating that they would like—

**Mr. Speaker:** Will the Hon. Member please ask his question?

**Mr. de Jong:** What is wrong with rock and roll?

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Blaikie:** Could the Minister tell the House why it is that the CRTC is under instructions to be firm in this case and not firm in so many other cases when firmness is warranted much more?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to see the Hon. Member's new found interest in communications matters. I think it is the first time he has risen in his seat in the House to raise such a question. The CRTC, to answer his question, has nothing against rock radio stations. There are a number of rock radio stations in the country at the moment. The CRTC feels, however, that when someone applies for a licence, in fairness to the other people who apply for licences, the licensee must live up to his promise of performance. In this case, according to the CRTC, the individual licensee did not live up to his promise of performance, thereby being unfair to all other applicants who made applications for that licence.

There are a number of rock licences that are available in the country at the moment. There is nothing to prevent the present licensee from reapplying for a licence, and this time indicating the type of radio station he is going to operate.

I am sure that if the CRTC modified licences in the way the Hon. Member is justifying, then he himself would be on his feet saying that the CRTC was being unfair to other applicants across the country.