

Canadian Constitution, a commitment which was supported by many Liberal Members of Parliament. Would the Minister of Justice assure the House and the millions of Canadians whose rights are at stake that those rights will not be sacrificed by the government in response to pressures applied by the NDP?

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Social Development):** Madam Speaker, first I would like to thank all members for their good wishes. I was not that sick; I had what you would call constitutional indigestion!

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

**Mr. Chrétien:** The doctor told me that the best remedy is to finish the job as quickly as possible!

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** It is making us all sick.

**Mr. Chrétien:** Of course, Madam Speaker, I will be delighted to answer the hon. member's question in front of the committee, should he put it tonight.

**Mr. Nielsen:** It has already been answered there.

**Mr. Beatty:** Madam Speaker, the commitment was given last week before the committee by the Acting Minister of Justice.

My question for the minister deals with government policy, which the House of Commons is entitled to know. Does the government put a higher priority upon the wishes of the NDP in their opposition to government policy than it puts upon the wishes of 64 per cent of Canadians who have expressed their opposition to the course followed by the government? Is the government going to buckle from this pressure applied by the NDP and sacrifice the interests of millions of Canadians who want to see property rights included in the Constitution?

**Mr. Chrétien:** Madam Speaker, I will deal with the problem tonight, but I would like to tell the hon. member that during the summer, in the long negotiations that we had with the provinces, the main opposition to that clause was from provinces, from Conservative governments which form many provincial governments.

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● (1450)

## INCOME TAX

### IMPACT ON FINANCING OF VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Secretary of State who is responsible within the government for the study of the voluntary sector. The Secretary of State is no doubt aware of the objectives and concerns of the coalition of national voluntary organizations in respect of the impact of federal income tax

## Oral Questions

laws on the financing of voluntary organizations. What is he doing about this responsibility within government?

**Hon. Francis Fox (Secretary of State and Minister of Communications):** Madam Speaker, we have initiated a number of decisions within government regarding the national voluntary organizations over the past few months. We have organized a number of meetings with officials of the Department of National Revenue and the Department of Finance. We are looking at the matter very closely indeed.

I should also like to point out to the hon. member that there is this upcoming consultation on Friday and Saturday with government, organized by the national voluntary organizations, and this will be one of the subjects of discussion.

### INQUIRY WHETHER SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TASK FORCE CONSIDERED

**Hon. Walter Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is addressed to the government House leader. Has he given the studies we have now been informed are being carried on by the Secretary of State and other organizations within the government and outside the government some consideration, and specifically has he considered the formation of a special or select parliamentary committee or parliamentary task force in order that all of the propositions which may be forthcoming from the bureaucratic side, on the one hand, and from the public side, on the other, relating to voluntary matters may be brought to the attention of Parliament? In this way there could be a sounding board for those concerns, much as there was in a very positive way in respect of the handicapped and others, utilizing the offices of this Parliament?

[Translation]

**Hon. Yvon Pinard (President of the Privy Council):** Indeed, Madam Speaker, we have been able to see how effective this type of special committees of the House can be. Some of them reported on current matters in December and others have had their terms of reference extended and should report very shortly. The suggestion of my hon. colleague concerning the voluntary sector is interesting and I intend to discuss it with the Secretary of State and to consult my colleagues, the House leaders to see whether we could come to an agreement and establish such a special committee to examine this particular subject.

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[English]

## CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

### RADIO-CANADA DISPUTE—REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF MEDIATOR

**Mr. Mark Rose (Mission-Port Moody):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Communications. As the minister knows, Radio-Canada's dispute with its journalists