are benefiting from the clearing up of the backlog at the first level. We are examining ways and means by which we can accelerate that process to ensure that the backlog and increased number of cases at that level are dealt with expeditiously.

In terms of the Member's second question on legal counsel to the Pension Review Board, that is presently under consideration by the Board and we anticipate we will have a replacement very shortly.

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NATIONAL REVENUE

CONDUCT OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE BRANCH

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of National Revenue. He has surprisingly taken credit this morning for returning to taxpayers the amounts they have been over-assessed. He says that is to the credit of his Department.

Mr. McDermid: He is giving them back their own money.

Mr. Stevens: Would the Minister tell the House whether he has any twinge of conscience for what he has been doing to my constituent, Tom Murphy, who was unfairly assessed $200,000, and appealed to the Tax Review Board? Mr. Frost of the Tax Review Board held that this was a case showing that on occasions taxpayers are victimized. He went on to say that this taxpayer has lost his business, his money, and his credit, because of most improper conduct on the part of the Special Investigative Branch of National Revenue in Ottawa. Why have the Department and the Minister persisted for eight years in refusing to give this constituent of mine proper compensation?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, considering his many years of experience in the House, the Hon. Member should know that I could not comment on individual tax returns.

Because he behaves often as a newcomer, I am not at all surprised by his question. All I can say is that my Department is trying to run a system which is both fair and equitable towards all Canadian taxpayers.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: The Hon. Member for York-Peel may have a supplementary question, bearing in mind the problem on individual tax returns.

Mr. McDermid: This is a little different from a tax return.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, as you have undoubtedly noted, the Minister acknowledges he knows this case.

Mr. McDermid: He knows this case full well.

MINISTER'S POSITION

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is also for the Minister of National Revenue. Can you explain to the House why you have refused to tell your solicitors—

Mr. Lalonde: Order. Order.

Mr. Stevens: —to accommodate this man's sad plight and give him fair compensation?

Mr. Lalonde: You cannot ask questions like that.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue): Mr. Speaker, I can only repeat what I have just said. In spite of his pestering, I refuse to comment on individual tax returns.

[*English*]

DETENTION OF TAXPAYER

Mr. Arnold Malone (Crowfoot): Mr. Speaker, in response to the Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe just a few moments ago the Minister of National Revenue said that he tries to run a fair and equitable system. I would like to ask the Minister about Christopher Collins who got a speeding ticket near Perth, Ontario, while en route to Chicago on March 2. An allegation showed up on the police computer that he had not paid tax in 1978. He was detained and jailed. He was threatened with 30 days in jail by the RCMP from Ottawa. He paid the RCMP $345 in cash in order to continue his trip. Upon his return he found a T4-62 slip dated June 25, 1981, indicating no tax payable and no tax refundable. Will the Minister tell us—

Mr. Lalonde: You cannot ask questions like this in the House. Order. Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I must bring to the attention of the Hon. Member that a very specific question such as he has posed should be on the Order Paper. If he wants to ask a general question regarding relationships between one tax authority and other collection agencies in the country, that is permissible. However, if he is asking about an individual case in the level of detail he has posed, it should be on the Order Paper.

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

Mr. Lalonde: You cannot have a supplementary question on an illegal question.

Mr. Malone: It is not illegal. The question is about fairness, equity—whether the Minister can run that kind of Department, and whether the RCMP are the collection agency.

Would this incompetent Minister try to tell us whether he accepts that as fair and equitable, whether that is the kind of system he runs, and whether he thinks that is in concurrence