

*Oral Questions*

**Ms. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I was asking Canada to apologize to the Chinese at this point in time. I was not asking for retroactivity of legislation.

## REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT PAY COMPENSATION

**Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East):** My supplementary question is directed to the Minister of Justice, on this same matter. Perhaps he would also consult with the Prime Minister. Since last Chinese New Year, when I called on the Canadian Government to compensate persons who have paid the discriminatory Chinese head tax, a number of elderly Chinese people from all over Canada have come forward with tax receipts. The Chinese community as a whole is most interested in this, as a symbolic gesture. Would the Minister be prepared to investigate the possibility of compensation for the few remaining survivors who paid this discriminatory head tax? Would he also ask the Prime Minister to convey our apologies on behalf of Canada?

**Hon. Mark MacGuigan (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, we will certainly give very full consideration to that request. As I am sure the Hon. Member knows, the Charter, which we are all happy to have, is prospective in its application, and for any kind of consideration to be given to the past this requires that we establish a new policy for that period. I know that the Hon. Member appreciates that we cannot really rewrite the whole of Canadian history. There have been many kinds of injustices committed by many groups, and suffered by many groups. We cannot undo all of those things which have happened in the past, but we can, at the very least, make a resolution that they will not happen again. In selected cases we can also look at the past, as the Hon. Member has suggested, and I undertake to do that.

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## NATIONAL REVENUE

ACCESS BY ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE TO  
DEPARTMENTAL FILES

**Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue.

[*Translation*]

Could the Minister tell the House whether, by virtue of the agreement entered into by the Solicitor General and his predecessor, the Hon. Member for Sarnia-Lambton, under which the RCMP would have access to the files of the Department of National Revenue for the purpose of investigating infringements of the Income Tax Act and later, signed by the former Member for Saint-Boniface, now sitting in the other place, the RCMP was given access to tax files for the purpose of investigating infringements of the Criminal Code? Is the Department of National Revenue carrying on with this practice or has the previous agreement been adhered to religiously? We would like to know whether the RCMP or

someone else has access to the files of the Department of National Revenue.

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I shall have to check about the agreement mentioned by the Hon. Member in the much broader context of his question which suggests the involvement of police forces in taxation matters. The Hon. Member will understand that, wherever fraudulent action is suspected, police may be justified in getting involved in the taxation aspects of investigations. However, as I would like to be more specific in my reply, I ask the Hon. Member to give me a little time to check on this matter.

[*English*]

## DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY MINISTER

**Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Revenue. Would the Minister give us a clear flat statement that he has full confidence in and supports his Deputy Minister?

**Mr. Beatty:** Yes or no?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe has set such an example of narrow-mindedness that his colleagues are having about the same simplistic reaction as he has.

Mr. Speaker, in my previous answers, I have twice described my responsibilities and those of my senior executives and told of my commitment to fulfill these responsibilities in order to promote the common good and ensure that the Income Tax Act is administered fairly for all Canadian taxpayers.

[*English*]

**Mr. Huntington:** As a supplementary—

**Mr. Speaker:** This appears to be a day when perhaps we can call upon a number of people who have not had an opportunity to put a question for some time. The Hon. Member for Kootenay West.

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## EDUCATION

FUNDING OF POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS IN BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

**Mr. Lyle S. Kristiansen (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State, and I have given him notice. The Minister will recall that I wrote to him in January of this year regarding the closure of the David Thompson University Centre in Nelson, British Columbia, and other problems arising from the massive diversions of federal post-secondary education funds by the British Columbia Gov-