

*Oral Questions*

question to the attention of the Minister who, I am sure, will give it serious consideration.

**Mr. Nielsen:** What have you to hide?

**Mr. Bosley:** Mr. Speaker, I can see that patronage questions do not interest the opposite benches very much.

**Mr. Nielsen:** They should.

**Mr. Bosley:** They are so used to them.

## REQUEST THAT EMPLOYMENT CONTRACTS BE TABLED

**Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, I have a final supplementary question, and perhaps I could ask the Prime Minister again whether he would like to get involved. I ask the Government not only to table the list of the appointments that have been made, but also to table immediately the contracts that have been made with those who have been hired, and for this reason, Mr. Speaker. We note that Miss Bastien and Mr. Larsen, who worked in the Prime Minister's office, have been taken on by this Corporation and that their contracts, for some reason, contain severance clauses that would grant them two years' severance pay should somebody in future decide to change the arrangements. These are supposed to be temporary jobs, as we were told yesterday. I think the House is entitled to a full explanation and a full disclosure of the appointments and the contracts. What, in goodness name, does the Government have to hide on this one?

• (1120)

**Hon. Herb Gray (President of the Treasury Board):** Mr. Speaker, again I will be very happy to draw my hon. friend's questions to the attention of the Minister. However, I would be interested in having it confirmed that when the present Leader of the Opposition was campaigning for the leadership of his party he said publicly—and I think it was reported in the press—words to the effect that, if he became Prime Minister, only Conservatives would be appointed to anything and everything, and that Liberals would be considered only after every living, breathing Conservative had been taken care of. I think my recollection is correct. If that is the case, my hon. friend should look at his Party's circumstances and at its own plans, instead of reflecting upon a program which has been approved by the Parliament of Canada and is aimed at supporting important institutions like the Olympics in Calgary.

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## NATIONAL REVENUE

## REPORT CRITICIZING DEPARTMENT'S POWERS

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister of National Revenue I will direct my question to the Prime Minister. A report has been handed down by the Canadian Bar Association in conjunction with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. It is a slashing

indictment of the operations of Revenue Canada. Among other things the committee, in reporting, pointed out that many of the powers now being exercised by Revenue Canada are in contravention of the provisions of the Charter of Rights.

Will the Prime Minister exercise some direction in terms of Revenue Canada and its relationship with the average Canadian? Will he give instructions to his Minister so that there will be an immediate reduction of the Department's reliance on search and seizure techniques, on fishing expeditions, to bring about a procedural fairness with respect to its activities and interrelationship with the average citizen which the people of Canada should be entitled to expect?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to remind the Hon. Member that in my Budget of February 15 of this year, I proposed a number of amendments to the Income Tax Act and the Excise Act, amendments that were aimed at ensuring that all provisions of the Act would, in all cases, be in accordance with the provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I would urge my hon. friend to read them carefully, and he will realize that many of these measures are the result of consultations I had personally with the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants. We have been, and are, working together very closely, to ensure that the legal provisions concerning taxation in every way respect the provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

[English]

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** The Minister of Finance will understand that the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants share the same view as the majority of Canadians with respect to the Minister's Budget, that it is simply not sufficient nor adequate in the least instance to deal with the outrageous way in which Revenue Canada has been treating the citizens of Canada.

## DEPARTMENT'S INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** Mr. Speaker, will the Minister not exercise some direction and instruct his colleague, the Minister of National Revenue, who apparently has no control over his Department, to take steps to alleviate the situation to which I referred with respect to search and seizure and fishing expeditions, and particularly to change the situation in Revenue Canada where its assessment people are being interchanged with the appeals branch? There is a relationship of friendship where in the public gets no fairness or equity in the appeals system within the Department. These are things which the Minister could do now. Let us see what he can do to make things better for the country before he leaves politics.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, if there is a fishing expedition, it is the one we have just seen,