

*Oral Questions*

Hon. Member, I want to tell him and the House that such conduct by an employee of the Department is totally improper and, as the Hon. Member has acknowledged, the man was reprimanded.

On the second point, I think it is important that we have effective collection action in the Department when money is owed to it. With respect to the more general problem of management in the district office, that problem has been dealt with.

**Mr. Speyer:** Mr. Speaker, I find the Minister's answer to be totally unsatisfactory. The part that concerns Members of the House on all sides, I think, is the comment "that's where the real fun of collection is", with reference to making seizures. That is the concern of Members on this side.

## SEIZURE OF TAXPAYERS' GOODS

**Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge):** Mr. Speaker, does the Minister put responsibility on a person who is the head of collection services in Kitchener, who is saying that it is fun to seize the goods of other Canadians? Does he allow this to happen?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I think the Hon. Member maliciously refused to listen to my answer. I clearly informed him that such attitudes were not acceptable, that it was not the philosophy of this Government nor that of the Department, and that corrective action had been taken.

● (1420)

[*English*]

STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO COLLECTION HEAD IN KITCHENER OFFICE

**Mr. Chris Speyer (Cambridge):** Mr. Speaker, I ask the Minister what action has been taken with respect to the head of collections in the Kitchener office who gave instructions to her employees that it would be fun to make seizures of taxpayers' goods. What corrective action has been taken with respect to her, the head of collections?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I informed the Hon. Member that such actions were not departmental policy. All employees, managers, and department heads in the Department are regularly informed of any unacceptable practices that may have occurred, and they have very specific guidelines on how they should deal with taxpayers.

[*English*]

JUDGE'S CRITICISM OF SEARCH CONDUCTED BY DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** Mr. Speaker, as the Progressive Conservative task force crosses the country, more and more horror stories are being discovered. I would like to tell the Minister with respect to this matter that when the excuse is given that each of these malfeasant actions constitutes isolated instances, and we have hundreds and hundreds of isolated instances, it becomes a pattern of conduct.

I want to refer the Minister to a case in Saskatchewan where Judge Linton Smith was severely critical of the tactics of Revenue Canada with respect to a Canadian of Chinese descent in the case of the Queen versus Den Chow. The judge indicated that the search by the Department was unreasonable and illegal, that Mr. Chow had been browbeaten and tormented, that his home was taken over, and his privacy totally invaded by departmental officials. He was threatened with prosecution for drugs when they found innocent medications. There was evidence of malicious actions which were contemptuous of the dignity and privacy of a private citizen. Those were the findings of a judge.

Would the Minister tell the House what he is doing to prevent the employees of his Department from engaging in these kinds of activities? Is he going to wait until all of these investigations are complete? Why does he not take action now?

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of National Revenue):** Mr. Speaker, I did not wait for comments from Opposition Members before taking action within my Department. I would like to point out to the Hon. Member that whenever a case is brought to my attention, either by Members of this House or by taxpayers who get in touch with me in my capacity as Minister, I examine and review each case, and if there has been unacceptable behaviour on the part of employees of our Department, we apologize, both the individuals responsible and myself as Minister, to the people concerned. I can inform the Hon. Member that we regularly issue reminders of our policies on the attitudes people in our Department should have in dealing with taxpayers.

[*English*]

INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN NOT TO CO-OPERATE WITH PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE TASK FORCE

**Hon. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon West):** Then, Mr. Speaker, will the Minister explain to me why he, on February 23, issued a directive to all regional offices instructing all employees of these offices not to co-operate with the Progressive Conservative task force which is crossing the country so that, for a change, we can hear what the people want to tell the Government of this country? Why has he sent out this directive prohibiting employees from co-operating with our