

investigate a genuine and growing concern that there is an organized campaign of harassment based on an iniquitous quota system? Will he ensure that this will stop and that the taxpayers are at all times treated fairly and courteously by public servants who are being paid with taxpayers' dollars?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is repeating the innuendoes and accusations. If anyone has listened attentively to the Minister, he will realize that this Minister is indeed attempting to be fair. It is those taxpayers who are paying taxes and who are not in a position to evade taxes because the taxes are deducted at the source, and those taxpayers who are paid on a voluntary system, who are not deducted at the source, who are conducting themselves, I suppose, in overwhelming majorities, in an honourable way; but there are tax evasions, and there are obligations upon the Minister to make sure that everyone who is a taxpayer bears his share of the taxes that are imposed upon all taxpayers in Canada.

● (1450)

I have discussed this matter with the Minister. I discussed it when he was appointed Minister, and I know it is his inclination, when in doubt, to be on the side of the taxpayer, the side of the citizen—

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

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

**Mr. Fraser:** Did he discuss it with Simmons?

**Mr. Trudeau:** The Hon. Leader of the Opposition talks about incompetence. I do not understand how he can make such wild and exaggerated speeches about the Government not being a reputable trustee of the taxpayers of Canada's money and, at the same time, make this kind of unfounded accusation against a Minister who is doing his duty.

**Mr. Mulroney:** Madam Speaker, I say there is an organized and systematic campaign of harassment going on against the small taxpayers of this country. That is what I am saying—

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

**Mr. Chrétien:** Prove it.

**Mr. Mulroney:**—and that it is directed against small businessmen, farmers, fishermen, artists, and the aged. That is what is going on.

**Mr. Chrétien:** You are a lawyer; prove it.

#### TREATMENT OF TAXPAYERS

**Mr. Brian Mulroney (Leader of the Opposition):** Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister has in the past, and with good reason, referred to the Charter of Rights. Would he think it appropriate that a modest indication of the rights of taxpayers be included—

#### Oral Questions

**Miss Bégin:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Mulroney:** The Minister of Health thinks it funny.

**Miss Bégin:** Yes.

**Mr. Mulroney:** She thinks most things are funny. Would the Prime Minister, given the existence—

**Mr. Whelan:** It is ridiculous.

**Mr. Mulroney:**—of what is clearly an organized campaign of harassment—and I do not blame the Prime Minister; I recognize the fault is with his Minister—would the Prime Minister give instructions, (a) to make sure and satisfy himself, that the campaign is at an end and, (b) that all officers convey in writing and otherwise, his and the Government's view of the manner in which taxpayers must be treated by officers of the Government of Canada, namely, with courtesy, with thoughtfulness, and with concern?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition is using the words that the Minister used himself when he said that he is ensuring that the taxpayers are treated with concern.

**Mrs. Beauchamp-Niquet:** Yes.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Let us examine what the Leader of the Opposition means when he talks about a campaign of harassment. Is he saying that in some way it is improper to get taxpayers to pay the taxes they owe?

**An Hon. Member:** They are harassing.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Can he give any case where—

**Mr. Epp:** Yes.

**Mr. Beatty:** Yes.

**Mr. Speyer:** Yes.

**Some Hon. Members:** Yes.

**An Hon. Member:** Stick around after Question Period.

**Mr. Malone:** If you want to hear it, ask your own back-benchers.

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Can he give any case—

**Mr. Nielsen:** The Hon. Member for St. Catharines just did.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, I ask the indulgence of the House. If they want to discuss this matter seriously, they should at least hear me out in my answer before shouting as they do.

Can they give any case where a taxpayer of Canada has been forced to pay taxes that he did not owe under the law?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Yes.