

*Oral Questions*

**Hon. Marcel Masse (Minister of Communications):** Mr. Speaker, first of all, the Minister responsible for culture has no business imposing taxes at all. Second, in the weeks and months to come, Canadians will have every opportunity to discuss this issue and I am sure the Government will be listening to Canadians.

[English]

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, the Minister could at least stand up against that tax.

## GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody—Coquitlam):** Mr. Speaker, I want to direct my supplementary question to the Prime Minister. I know that he is here today, perhaps only for decoration.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Why are you here?

**Mr. Mayer:** You're not here for decoration or any other reason.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Hon. Member will put his question.

**Mr. Waddell:** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has boasted about his program to combat adult illiteracy. He has boasted about helping Canadian publishing companies. He has boasted about making Canada a more civil and tolerant society.

Then why is his Government, unlike any other Government in the western world, putting a tax on reading material? Is this not totally inconsistent?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member is right—I had not planned to be here but when I heard he was running for Leader I came down immediately. I want to wish him well, and I say that on behalf of a unified, generous and tolerant caucus.

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

**Mr. Mulroney:** The points raised by my hon. friend are very valid. I think he will recognize that we have all contributed to building that kind of a country.

He raises a series of concerns with regard to the artistic community. These will be looked at very carefully. A technical paper will be released, all of the concerns will be analysed, and the Minister of Finance will bring in definitive recommendations.

I thank my hon. friend for the question; it is one of the most cogent of all from the leadership candidates around here.

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## SPORTS

## MINISTER'S APPEARANCE BEFORE DUBIN INQUIRY

**Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, as all of us in this Chamber are quite aware, the eyes of the world are focused right now on the Dubin inquiry.

My question is for the Minister of Fitness and Amateur Sport. Is the Minister prepared to testify before the Dubin inquiry? If he is prepared to do that, is he prepared to call Mr. Justice Charles Dubin and inform him of his desire to do so?

**Mr. Dick:** Typical Liberal, phone the Judge.

**Hon. Jean J. Charest (Minister of State (Youth) and Minister of State (Fitness and Amateur Sport)):** Mr. Speaker, my hon. colleague is absolutely right that the eyes of the world are on Canada and the Dubin inquiry.

I can tell him quite frankly that Mr. Justice Dubin has all the powers necessary to call witnesses if he feels it is necessary. We gave him those powers. If he asks me to testify before the Dubin inquiry, I will be happy to do so, as will the previous Minister.

The Member should be warned about calling judges. He may want to consult one of his ex-colleagues about that.

**Mr. Keyes:** The Minister may find some humour in all this, but I fail to find any humour in this situation.

APPEARANCE OF MINISTER OF NATIONAL REVENUE  
BEFORE DUBIN INQUIRY

**Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister did not answer the question which was whether he expressed the desire to appear before the Dubin inquiry. He says "if he wants to call me, I'll go ahead". We are sinking to a new low here, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Keyes:** Where is the Minister's sense of responsibility? It is incumbent upon the Minister to tell the inquiry what he knew about the use of illegal performance enhancing drugs in Canadian amateur sport.