

Hey you down there, I'll take the bill now.

Waiter I gave it to you.

Khlestakov Well, I don't have it, I can't keep track of you and your stupid bills ...

Waiter On the day you arrived you had for lunch a Kiev cutlet and spiced almond cake. For dinner, borscht followed by vareniky dumplings with four honey vodkas. You missed breakfast the next day but lunch was a sturgeon fillet and radish side salad. For dinner ...

Khlestakov I don't need it bloody itemised! How much?

Mayor Please, Your Excellency ... We'll see to this. (*To Waiter.*) Get out of here.

Khlestakov That's very good of you.
(*Puts his money away.*)

Waiter exits.

Mayor May I suggest – but no, no ...

Khlestakov What?

Mayor No, I was only going to suggest on our way over we drop in – very briefly – I know you must be tired and you'll want to rest – but drop in on some of the town's public buildings? For example, the school, the courthouse and the hospital.

Khlestakov Why would I want to do that?

Mayor Only to see for yourself how we do things here. It won't take long – and then it's out of the way. It's off the list.

Khlestakov Yes, all right, why not?