

has asked me to reply on his behalf. I appreciate the manner in which the hon. member began his remarks by expressing a sincere word of commendation for the minister who, as we know, is held in high regard by all hon. members of the House.

The minister and the department obviously cannot accept the basic implication in the hon. member's question as worded in *Hansard* that veterans are being treated with some sort of austerity. I shall not take the time of the House tonight by going into chapter and verse with regard to the various benefits which are provided by the department but I know, upon the advice of the minister and from my personal observations, that Canadian veterans enjoy the most comprehensive benefits in the world, and that the

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monetary levels of those benefits compare favourably with similar benefits anywhere. Of course we are not satisfied with that standard, but the comparison with other countries is important.

In Canada veterans have, as citizens, access to the benefits of all federal, provincial and municipal programs and, in some cases, something substantially more because of their status as veterans. If the hon. member would bring any specific cases he is interested in to the attention of the minister, I know the minister would be delighted to have them investigated and dealt with promptly.

**Mr. McCain:** How would you like to be 389th on that list?

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.21 p.m.