

*Privilege—Mr. Yewchuk*

government side of the table we were less competent to serve our constituents. It was that remark that caused me to reply in the way the hon. member complained of here. He started it!

**An hon. Member:** So there!

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

**Mrs. Holt:** I could ask for an apology for the attack on me while I was absent from this House, implying I was—

**An hon. Member:** No one is going to attack you, Simma.

**Mrs. Holt:** You are afraid and you are cowards, too. You accused me of being a coward, implying—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mrs. Holt:** The hon. member implied—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**An hon. Member:** Learn how to behave.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The purpose of the intervention by the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway is to verify what may have been left in doubt about some of the aspects of the question of privilege, as I understand it. I have some doubt as to whether there is a question of privilege up to now, but I am getting a bit worried that though there may not be one now, we may be getting into one soon.

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

**Mrs. Holt:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I notice in the transcript that they gave everybody on their own side a chance to speak against me, but they cannot face my words and my reply now.

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

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

**Mrs. Holt:** My second ground for an apology would be that this passage implied I was afraid to be here to face the hon. member. An hon. member is quoted as having said:

She knew it was coming up and that is why she is not here.

My goodness, I fear no man!

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

**An hon. Member:** But the reverse isn't true.

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

**Mrs. Holt:** I fear no man, certainly none of those on the opposite side, however much I might admire a few—but very few.

My third ground for apology could be that I resent very much your being told, Mr. Speaker, or any other member, that I implied conflict of interest when a member's professional background is used to aid him or her in the huge,

[Mrs. Holt.]

onerous, and very responsible job we have been assigned in this House.

Certainly I do not demand an apology for any one of those. And I do not expect that you could rule that an apology from me is warranted in view of what actually was said and the remark from hon. members of the Progressive Conservative party that inspired my second remark of which the hon. member complained, that the government members of the committee were not doctors and therefore were not qualified to participate in the committee. The hon. member who complained so bitterly to you, or one who sat beside him, did not bother to tell you that it was this interjection that inspired a retort that obviously he did not expect and did not like, and which caused him to stand here and demand that the entire House stop its business so he and the doctors on the Progressive Conservative side of the House could receive an apology.

**An hon. Member:** At \$219 a minute.

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

**Mrs. Holt:** You know the quotation, Mr. Speaker, so I will not repeat it, but he forgot to tell you that their interjection was: "Where are your doctors on the government side of the House?" They said: "Where are your doctors", to which I responded, and I think quite properly, that it would be better that people who receive service and pay for service start asking a few questions, and that we on the government side in committee were well qualified to do so.

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

**Mrs. Holt:** It was also inaccurate to claim, as was reported in *Hansard*, that I had the last word. While I frequently do get the last word, and I rather like it, I did not in this case.

Referring to the statement that I suggested a conflict of interest when a member uses his or her expertise to advantage here, that is very wrong and damaging to all of us. On the contrary, I feel it is most important that this House be represented by all professions, industrial, commercial, and working segments of society to achieve a true House of the common people, and that the expertise of each person from a cross-section of the entire Canadian constituency be well used in the House. In this way the people can be best represented.

The special knowledge and value of each person in this House are of inestimable value to Canada. I never suggested there was conflict of interest in the use of the expertise each of us—

**An hon. Member:** Give her two cents and let her finish.

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

**Mrs. Holt:** You are being chicken, you know.

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

**Mrs. Holt:** Mr. Speaker, they are being chicken. I never suggested there was conflict of interest in the use of the expertise each of us has gained in our businesses or professional life. It was the hon. member for Athabasca's own