

Inquiries of the Ministry

committee. I would prefer to see them as detached as possible from political parties who happen to have been elected at a particular time, and that it should be done as it is now, as a prerogative exercise through and by the Governor General. If the House leaders want to get together and discuss the general subject, certainly the government will put no obstacles in their way.

Mr. Marshall: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Prime Minister misinterpreted my question. Would he agree to bringing this matter before the standing committees so that veterans organizations could be heard in order that a proper plan could be devised which would be of benefit to all Canadians?

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, it is not clear to me from the hon. member's question what it is about which he suggests these people be heard. If it is about the awarding of the decorations and honours, I have answered in the negative. I would hope it would not be for the standing committee or anyone in this House to decide who should receive awards. The advice of the veterans can and should be channelled through the Governor General and through the advisory board which has been set up. They have in the past and will continue to receive nominations for the various awards from all citizens.

Mr. Speaker: The Chair will recognize the hon. member for Ontario on a supplementary question, but perhaps we might then go on to the next subject. If hon. members feel the matter is of such importance that it should be given further consideration, we might return to the subject later during the question period. For the moment the Chair recognizes the hon. member for Ontario, to be followed by the hon. member for York South.

Mr. Norman A. Cafik (Ontario): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question to the Prime Minister on the subject of bravery awards. I wonder whether he would give consideration to giving such an award to the Leader of the Opposition for daring to sit with his back to the hon. member for Crowfoot?

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Bell: Withdraw!

Mr. Stanfield: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I am unduly sensitive, and I do not want to adopt an attitude of undue propriety toward the hon. member, but with all due respect to him I think he is making light of a pretty important subject.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I had the feeling that the moment had been reached when we should go on to the next subject. Perhaps I regret recognizing the hon. member for Ontario. The hon. member for York South.

Mr. Horner: Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Is the hon. member rising on a question of privilege?

[Mr. Trudeau.]

Mr. Horner: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to prolong this issue, but I believe the hon. member's remarks cast a reflection upon me and actions I may or may not take. In all fairness to myself and the House, I suggest that his remarks are not parliamentary and the hon. member should be asked to withdraw them.

Some hon. Members: Withdraw!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I might say it was my impression that the hon. member for Ontario was smiling when he made those remarks.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bell: The smile is not on the record.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member suggests that the smile is not on the record, and I agree with him. The question period is limited to 40 minutes and I suggest that hon. members should give serious thought to the questions they ask. I agree with the hon. member for Crowfoot that the hon. member for Ontario has no right to cast reflections on the actions of hon. members.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: At the same time it is my impression that the hon. member did not intend to do so, and I would invite him to confirm that understanding.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I am certainly delighted to record the smile that was in fact on my face at that time. I certainly did not, nor have I ever since becoming a member of this House, intend to cast any reflection on either the Leader of the Opposition or the hon. member for Crowfoot.

An hon. Member: You were caught in a cheap tactic.

Mr. Bell: There goes another riding. How many have you got left now?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. We will go to the next subject. The hon. member for York South.

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker, I intend to fulfil your wish by going to another subject, but I cannot pass the opportunity without saying that apparently the smile on the face of the hon. member for Ontario does not improve his manners.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Cafik: On a question of privilege—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member for York South was recognized for the purpose of asking a question. He has passed this up in favour of a question of privilege by the hon. member for Ontario.

Mr. Cafik: Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to what the leader of the NDP said provided it is understood he means that these manners could not be improved.

An hon. Member: You are getting in deeper and deeper.

Mr. Bell: I move the adjournment of this debate.