

*The Budget—Mr. M. Asselin*

as immigrants and knew they would have to speak either English or French, and they learned one or both languages. But we, French Canadians, have been here since the early days of colonization. We were the first settlers of the country, then we were defeated by the English on the Plains of Abraham and had to live side by side with them. Regular meetings between English and French have made us realize that we had to learn both languages.

**Hon. Martial Asselin (Charlevoix):** Mr. Speaker, this afternoon the Chair did not allow the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Marchand) to go on with a speech along those lines. Tonight, you interrupted the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Caron) and suggested that he confine his remarks to the non-confidence motion now before the house. However, the hon. member for Hull did not comply with your instructions and, in my opinion, he should not be allowed to go on, just as you did not allow the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to continue his speech this afternoon because he was not dealing with the amendment.

**Mr. Caron:** On the point of order, the narrow-mindedness just shown by the hon. member is amazing. In the past, no proposed amendment to the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne or to the Budget speech ever prevented a member from referring to anything whatsoever. I admit it is not in the standing orders, but it has been the tradition since confederation and I do not believe I may rightly be prevented from doing so.

Besides, the hon. member for Carleton referred to this and I may speak about it myself, for I have a right to speak on any subject during the Budget debate and I intend to continue, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. I must still remind the hon. member for Hull (Mr. Caron) of the amendment which is now before the house. I would hope he would make every effort to confine his remarks within the limits of that amendment.

**Mr. Caron:** Mr. Speaker—

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Caouette:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. We saw a while ago the hon. member for Carleton spit on the province of Quebec as probably no other Conservative can

[*Mr. Caron.*]

do and the Chair tolerated it. For the last four years—

**Mr. Ricard:** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I am on a point of order at the present time.

**Mr. Ricard:** I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I am on a point of order at the present time and the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot should resume his seat.

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. There can be only one point of order at a time.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Ricard:** Mr. Speaker, I was in the house when the hon. member for Carleton made his speech and I do not remember him saying what the hon. member for Villeneuve says he did. I think the member for Carleton spoke with all due respect, even if the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) did not like his remarks. There is no reason to say that he spat on the province of Quebec, for he made a fine and dignified speech—

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, there is no question of privilege.

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot (Mr. Ricard) does not have a point of privilege; he is refuting an argument.

The hon. member for Villeneuve.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Speaker, I maintain that the member for Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot was off the track as he always is anyway.

As to the question of privilege, I maintain that the hon. member for Carleton was allowed to say anything, not only with regard to the amendment before us, but any nonsense as we know the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot is able to say. But now they object to the hon. member for Hull expressing what he has to say with regard to the Budget speech.

I have been here for four years, since 1962, and I have had the opportunity to hear people from all parties express what they had to say