

Supply

member obtain pension benefits and as well what benefits should be attributed to that member at that age. It is difficult to disagree with the comments made by the member.

Mrs. Jan Brown (Calgary Southeast, Ref.): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise today to speak to this motion.

Before I begin to refer to the body of my text, I have to comment on the waxing eloquence of my hon. colleagues from the Liberal Party regarding the red book. I would very much like to point out to my colleagues that on August 12, 1993 the Prime Minister of today challenged Kim Campbell, then Prime Minister, about pension reform.

On August 11 he challenged Kim Campbell to recall Parliament and said: "We would pass it in one day", meaning pension reform. He was feisty in his request because he added that his party had been proposing these reforms for months:

"It is 1984 all over again", Chrétien charged. "They said 'here is a fresh face'. They promised a new dimension of objectivity and representation. Now it is the same speech, the same lies and the same promises".

So much for the red book.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): Order. I am trying to grasp the context of some of the remarks of the hon. member. In referring to lies, I would hope that we are not in any way insinuating that any one member in this Chamber from any one party would be lying in any way, shape or form. I ask members to keep that in mind.

Mrs. Brown (Calgary Southeast): Mr. Speaker, I was quoting from an article by William Walker of the *Toronto Star*.

Ms. Catterall: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I too am trying to reconstruct the words of the member opposite who quite closely linked the word lies with the name of the Prime Minister. I would ask that you as Speaker review the blues and if you find cause, come back to this House and ask the member to please withdraw.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kilger): I accept the intervention of the government deputy whip and I do take the undertaking to the House that I will review the blues. If necessary I will come back to the House.

Mrs. Brown (Calgary Southeast): Mr. Speaker, I am going to clarify this right now. This is a quote from an article by William Walker and those are the very words that are printed here that are attributed to the then Liberal candidate, Mr. Jean Chrétien. It is in this article from the *Toronto Star*.

I certainly would never presume to have associated that term with our Prime Minister today. I strenuously object to any suggestion that I would do so.

Mr. Bodnar: You never said it was an article before.

Miss Grey: She sure did.

Mrs. Brown (Calgary Southeast): Mr. Speaker, I shall continue.

• (1710)

Because the issue of MP pensions enrages more Canadians than any other issue in contemporary politics today, and we can certainly see the sensitivity of my Liberal colleagues in the House today, today's motion goes to the heart of what matters in Canada. Believe me, voters will be looking on this day's debate in three and a half years time and they will be looking at what was said and who said it.

This goes to the core of leadership in government. It demonstrates to Canadians that before the politicians ask them to make any more financial sacrifices we will lead by example. This motion demonstrates our sincerity on this side of the House to lead by example, to cut government spending and to inject new levels of integrity into this House. We do this by securing reform of the MP pension plan.

It is ironic to suggest that reforming the MP pension plan is a sacrifice for members of Parliament. All we are doing is taking our existing, outdated, lavish, unfair and expensive pension plan and correlating it with the private sector provisions for employees. This is no sacrifice.

It is an expectation from our electorate that we reform this outrageous pension plan. More than anything else Canadians resent that they are asked over and over again to tighten their belts, that they must pay higher taxes, that their hard earned pay cheques are taxed back to the government. Let us not forget about the eight million Canadians who have no pensions at all.

Canadians are at a point where they no longer believe their politicians are worthy of their support. I know I can speak to the constituents of my riding of Calgary Southeast. In town hall after town hall on the issues of the day that come up number one is MP pensions: "When are you going to get rid of that terrible plan?"

The motion today which states that the House replace the current members of Parliament retirement allowance plan with a pension plan that reflects the current norms for private sector pensions with a maximum contribution in accordance with the Income Tax Act should be supported by all members of the House.

I urge members to put their self-interest behind them and to recognize this proposal is a sound one. Two legislatures have already made cuts to their MLA pension plans. Alberta and Prince Edward Island have made those cuts. These provinces have taken the lead on this issue and it is time that federal politicians followed suit.