

*The Budget—Mr. Chevrier*

sarily have to wait until the dominion statistician has rephrased those quotations and until the revised form is issued.

Meanwhile, I congratulate the minister for his statement, which managed to pull him out of a bad spot. The problem was the government's own doing. The government created this crisis. The government, and the government alone, is responsible for the situation in which it finds itself. This action gave rise to a general outcry not only in the province of Quebec but everywhere in Canada.

It gave rise to a shower of protests. Today, in the face of these mass protests, the government has decided to back down, to give up, to retreat and to restore things as they were.

This crisis, Mr. Speaker, had harmful effects on national unity. In fact, the decision announced by the minister, quoting the director of the dominion bureau of statistics, should have been taken at the very start of the trouble.

Indeed, the census is first of all a scientific procedure designed to give us a true picture of the people of Canada, to reveal the true composition of the people of this country.

And precisely because of the scientific purpose of the census, it should be left in the hands of experts in this field, instead of being subjected to government interference.

The dominion bureau of statistics had decided on its own to proceed with a poll in June 1959. To that end, a form was prepared and submitted to the people in the towns of Brantford and Joliette. It contained the same words, the same question and the same suggested answer; in short, it was entirely similar to that of the 1951 census.

The poll taken in the two communities I just mentioned did not, however, contain the word "Canadian" as the first item on the list. Since the D.B.S. is administered by the same experts as in 1959, we are led to believe that the change made after 1959, with regard to that question, is the result of some intervention or direct interference on the part of the government.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Tell us about Mr. St. Laurent.

**Mr. Denis:** Mr. Speaker, you heard, as we did, on several occasions, the interjections of the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm (Mr. Pigeon).

**Mr. Dupuis:** And those of the hon. member for Roberval (Mr. Tremblay).

**Mr. Denis:** This is not the first time, Mr. Speaker, that we hear the cawing of those

crows. You have been tolerant with them. I believe that it is now time that those hon. members be requested to keep quiet. If they have something to say, let them rise in their proper turn.

**Mr. Speaker:** It is true that it is against the standing orders to make interjections when another hon. member is speaking, even on a point of order. I recognize the hon. member for Laurier.

**Mr. Pigeon:** Mr. Speaker, on a question of privilege. The hon. member for St. Denis used an unparliamentary expression, when he spoke of two hon. members in terms which he should apply to himself.

**Mr. Dupuis:** You feel the cap fits you.

**Mr. Chevrier:** As I said, the poll in both towns did not contain the word "Canadian". Consequently, it was after the 1959 poll, and before the 1961 forms first came out that a change took place which could only come from one source, the government.

In putting an end to such interference and deciding to refer the matter to experts in this field, the government is only trying to get out of a mess of its own creation. However that experiment will cost the Canadian taxpayers no less than some \$100,000, as new forms will have to be printed.

I must commend the minister for recognizing his error and his willingness to rectify it. I know, he will hardly expect me to commend him for having, together with his predecessor, the present Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Churchill) made this serious error which could endanger Canadian unity by depriving it of cultural diversity which is its essential factor.

May I hope that the minister will profit by that lesson and that from now on he will resort to expert advice. As a matter of fact, this was not the first of his mistakes. I recall that on one occasion he refused to accept a decision of the air transport commission, thus courting unnecessary trouble in this house and throughout the country. If he had followed the recommendations of experts in the matter, the government and the Conservative party would not have been out on a limb, as they were until yesterday.

I therefore say that, in future, the government will have to accept expert advice and take into greater consideration the history and traditions of this country which, according