

*Privilege*

I ask the acting minister why is the government making it tougher for these people to receive their benefits?

**Hon. Perrin Beatty (Minister of National Health and Welfare):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Minister of Veterans Affairs, because I think there is good news for Canadian veterans.

First of all, in terms of areas which will not be affected, the Minister of Veterans Affairs has indicated budgets for veterans benefits, for pensions, for war veterans allowances, for veterans and dependants program and so on will not be affected.

In addition to that, the hon. member will be aware that in the supplementary estimates there was an increase of some \$60 million for veterans dependants. No doubt he will applaud that increase. We believe that the veterans affairs department can make these cuts from overhead. It will not result in a cut in terms of services or benefits for veterans.

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**PRIVILEGE**

## COMMENTS DURING DEBATE ON BILL C-40

**Mr. Speaker:** I have a question of privilege from the hon. member for Scarborough—Agincourt.

**Mr. Jim Karygiannis (Scarborough—Agincourt):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of personal privilege in regard to comments made yesterday in debate by the member for Souris—Moose Mountain.

While responding to a point I made about those of us who came to Canada by choice, the member said: "They destroyed it".

Along with all immigrants to this country, I am deeply offended by comments such as this. Nearly all of us who live in Canada are descended from people who trace their roots back to other countries and to say that the more recent arrivals have destroyed it is a gross manipulation of the truth. I found it doubly appalling that the member who made these remarks is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister.

I therefore call upon the member to immediately offer his apology for such insensitive remarks to the House and to all Canadians.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Len Gustafson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I believe that if you check the "blues" the debate was on the CBC. The debate became one of national unity and my reference to "they destroyed it" was a reference—if you will read on in *Hansard*—to the Liberal Party, to Clyde Wells, and those who did not support unity, including his leader. There was absolutely no reference whatever to immigrants.

My grandfather was also an immigrant to this country and the reference was to the Liberal Party. However, if there was anything inferred that was taken out of context I apologize for it. That is his problem. The question is clear if you read the "blues".

I again and again said: "Ask Mr. Clyde Wells about unity". It seemed somewhat hypocritical to me that they defended unity after defeating Meech Lake and—

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Some hon. members:** Sit down.

**Mr. Tobin:** Come on, Mr. Speaker, I'm not going to stand for this.

**Mr. Speaker:** I have another question of privilege. I will certainly come to the hon. member in a moment.

## COMMENTS DURING QUESTION PERIOD

**Mr. Maurice A. Dionne (Miramichi):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege resulting from the non-answer to my question by the Prime Minister. If the record is checked I think you will find that the Prime Minister said: "Every word he said is a lie". And again he said that I was "a bloody liar"—

**An hon. member:** He said "hypocrite".

**Mr. Dionne:**—"A bloody hypocrite", I am sorry. Mr. Speaker, I will leave that in your hands until the Prime Minister is back in the House so that he can answer that charge. But I want to say more about it at that time, Sir.

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of State and Leader of the Government in the House of Commons):** Mr. Speaker, I just want to respond. The Prime Minister had to leave for a meeting of the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology, which he chairs.

I want to say to the hon. member that what the Prime Minister did say in his comments was that in 1983, when the Liberal government was planning to close CFB Chatham he promised that, if elected in 1984, we would keep CFB Chatham in operation. In fact, that is what happened. Any suggestion by the hon. member other-