

Abandonment of Defence Projects

Mr. Choquette: I have a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, may I rise on a question of privilege?

What the hon. member for Lapointe says is absolutely untrue. In the riding of Lotbinière—

[Text]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. I have allowed the hon. gentleman to stray away from his place, but I would rather he would not stray away from the subamendment.

[Translation]

An hon. Member: It is not a question of privilege.

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, it is a well-known fact that during the last election campaign, the Liberals promised to acquire nuclear arms and that their arguments had the support of American finance.

It is on account of the help of American finance, which bolstered the Liberal party's coffers, that they won the last election, and everybody knows that the cash-box was well supplied. We all keep in mind the great number of television programs and full page advertisements in the newspapers.

[Text]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order, order.

[Translation]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I was entirely within the limits of the subamendment while I was explaining that

to accept servilely—

means someone who can be bribed. This is the word I was trying to explain, and it is included in the subamendment.

Mr. Speaker, if I was dealing with that point, it is because the Liberal members of the province of Quebec are well aware that the Quebec voters do not support the storage of nuclear arms in the state of Quebec.

Tomorrow, during the vote on the motion, if they do not support the subamendment, the reason will be that they are tied, they have been bribed by American financiers who have generously replenished the election coffers.

Mr. Jean Berger (Montmagny-L'Islet): Mr. Speaker, could I put a question to the hon. member?

[Text]

May I ask a question of the hon. member for Lapointe?

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten).]

Mr. Gregoire: On one condition, that I will have the time back at the end of my speech.

[Translation]

Mr. Berger: The hon. member claims, and keeps insisting on the fact, that the Liberal members were elected thanks to U.S. funds. I should like him to prove it or stop making fallacious assertions against several members from the province of Quebec.

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, it is very easy. I put on the order paper of the house—

[Text]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. The hon. gentleman from Lapointe has the floor and has the right to make his speech without interruption. If any hon. member wants to ask him a question, then the hon. member for Lapointe may yield the floor. Otherwise he will continue with his speech.

[Translation]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I shall have ample time to do that since I have put on the order paper a notice of motion for the setting up of a committee to consider the sources of the election expenditures of the four political parties. Then, I shall be able to give proof.

In any event, Mr. Speaker, we know one thing, and it is that the province of Quebec does not want it. And I challenge the present government to hold a referendum, to have the courage to hold a referendum in the province of Quebec, as the Liberals did in 1942 on the conscription issue. At that time, the members from the province of Quebec reacted according to the will of their electors. And in the present case, they would soon realize that those electors are against the storing of nuclear weapons in the province of Quebec.

I would ask them who pretend to ignore where the funds came from for their last election, I would ask them to have at least the decency to vote according to the wishes and desires of their electors in their ridings. Now that they are sitting here, they could take the most decent way to defer to the desire of their electors in their riding, that is to vote for the subamendment against the acquisition of nuclear weapons in the state of Quebec.

An hon. Member: Very well.

Mr. Gregoire: We have said in the province of Quebec, that the part for Canada to play would be to strive for peace in the world and not for destruction and for war. That is what we said.

It was not nuclear arms we asked for, Mr. Speaker, but bread, butter, homes and work for everybody in this country.