

Abandonment of Defence Projects

Desmeules and Mr. Paul Tremblay, deputy clerk, and which reads as follows:

It is moved by alderman Dr. Raymond Grenon, seconded by alderman Maurice Fortin, and unanimously adopted, to second the motion adopted by the city of Port Alfred to the effect that it opposes the federal government plan to store nuclear warheads at the Bagotville base of the R.C.A.F.

[Translation]

An hon. Member: All good Liberals.

Mr. Gregoire: These are two official protests from public corporations in the ridings of Lake St. John and Chicoutimi, two of the largest cities in those regions.

Moreover, I received another letter of protest from the Societe St. Jean Baptiste, Saguenay branch. By the way, I know very well the former regional president of that society. It is a resolution adopted on July 30, 1963, at the annual meeting of the members of the executive of the Saguenay branch, which reads as follows:

The members of the executive of the Societe St. Jean Baptiste, Saguenay branch, protest against your government's decision to equip with nuclear warheads the planes at the air force base at Bagotville and to store them.

That dangerous situation will certainly endanger the life of the citizens. We know that the government will go ahead anyway, but it will be against our will.

In the hope that you will ask the proper authorities on our behalf to put a stop to such a situation, I remain, yours very truly—

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the representations made by the municipalities, I have here the July 3 issue of *La Terre de Chez Nous* in which the Catholic Farmers' Union protests as follows:

The Catholic Farmers' Union is made up of over 43,000 farmers—

In the province of Quebec only, and this is what they say:

Instead of joining in the arms race, our country could play a much more useful part in the world by urging other countries to promote disarmament and peace and by providing assistance to underdeveloped countries.

Some hon. Members: Well said.

Mr. Gregoire: And the article of the Quebec Catholic Farmers' Union goes on as follows:

Quebec farmers, as all French Canadians, were against conscription in the 1914 and 1939 wars. The prospect of an atomic war is a thousand times more horrible than past conscription.

—Mr. Speaker, some municipalities, St. Jean Baptiste societies or other social clubs wrote to ask me to protest against the storage of nuclear weapons in Quebec using approximately the same terms as the St. Jean Baptiste society, from the Saguenay area used in its letter:

We know that the government will do it just the same without our consent.

—I replied as follows: I think that my request will be useless since the Department of National Defence does not take any advice from anybody and makes sport of everybody.

Mr. Speaker, nevertheless we want to record the protest of the province of Quebec, and members from that province in this house know very well at the present time that such is the opinion of all their fellow citizens from Quebec to protest strongly against the storage of nuclear weapons in that province, in the counties of Lotbiniere, Mercier, St. James or any other one, and the Liberal members know that very well.

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbiniere): Mr. Speaker, may I ask the hon. member a question. Can he explain to us, in view of the stand taken by the present Prime Minister, who was then leader of the opposition, how we still managed however to get 47 Liberal members elected in the province of Quebec?

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, the first three words of the amendment to the amendment explains that—

An hon. Member: Because your leader believes in it.

Mr. Gregoire: The explanation is found in the first three words of the amendment to the amendment:

"subserviently agreeing to the storing of nuclear arms"

Mr. Speaker, the Liberals, the hon. members for Lotbiniere and Mercier included, know full well that during the last general election they accepted contributions from the U.S. financiers to bolster their slush fund.

They have not been elected by the voters of the province of Quebec, but by American money.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Gregoire: The hon. member for Lotbiniere and the others know that very well—

[Text]

Mr. Deachman: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman is no longer in the house. He is standing behind the bar.

[Translation]

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, I can see it hurts. There is a wound at the broken arm. They cannot stand the truth now, because you know very well that the last election was won with the help of American financiers.

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Speaker, may I—

[Text]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): If the hon. gentleman has a question to ask the hon. member for Lapointe, will he do so?