

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Has the hon. member a point of order? If so, I should like to hear it.

[Translation]

Mr. Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, I wish to raise a question of privilege.

Mr. Rondeau: So do I; I want to raise a question of privilege.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. If the hon. member has a question of privilege I will hear it.

[Translation]

Mr. Guay (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member seems to forget that here in the House we are entitled to the truth. He seems to forget that we not only promote Canadian industries by loans, but that we also give them grants. That is more than loans without interests, it is in fact giving away money.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I think the hon. member has a point of debate rather than a question of privilege.

[Translation]

Mr. Rondeau: Mr. Speaker, I want to point out to you that I am getting tired of being interrupted by members who never take in the House the opportunity to say what they think, who enjoy throwing sand in the works and making statements that are more or less relevant.

I know that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion is giving incentives to some industries. However, I am not aware that the federal government has made interest free loans to municipalities in the province of Quebec or in any other province of Canada. That is what we are talking about. We are not discussing the merits of the decision made by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion to subsidize industry. We do not criticize, but if Canada is giving interest free loans to other countries, we ought to do the same for the Canadian provinces.

Mr. Speaker, granting an interest-free loan to another country—although Canada never received one—amounts to a gift. The right hon. Prime Minister has made such gifts during his last trip. This reminds me of the time when Indian chiefs were receiving gifts designed to keep them quiet so that they could be more readily exploited afterwards. Was it really necessary to keep some Commonwealth countries—such as England—quiet because of arm sales to Rhodesia? Did several countries threaten to wreck the Commonwealth?

Did those gifts—loans granted by our Prime Minister help save the Commonwealth? Did the profits made by British arms merchants and manufacturers keep quiet

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several angry countries who still believe that it is necessary to kill in order to live?

Has the old saying "Money talks" been able once again to save the Commonwealth? History will tell perhaps but too late, unfortunately, for we Canadians shall have to pick up the tab for those gifts which we cannot really afford for ourselves.

To date we do not know, apart from what has been said about it, whether the Commonwealth is really in danger. We know, however, that England will keep selling arms with the approval of our Prime Minister, though he did oppose this move before he left for Asia. Who has won the battle? The political experts, before the Prime Minister left, or the British financial experts?

And while men will kill each other with English weapons, we Canadians will grant loans without interest to others so that arms dealers be paid and that those who wish to live out of war be well financed.

Some wish to fight, and some dealers or manufacturers from England have arms to sell or profits to make. But we Canadians pay them handsomely so that the English can sell their arms and be paid and that Asiatic belligerents be financed in order to be able to kill one another.

When the Créditistes ask for loans without interest from the Bank of Canada in order to finance waterworks or other projects which we need everywhere in Canada, politicians committed to finance, like those we heard a few moments ago, say that it is impossible because it would entail too much money, which would do nothing but contribute to inflation. Unfortunately we see a bunch of fools without money who are afraid of inflation, who are afraid of having too much money and who shout parrot-like: That would make too much money.

When the Créditistes wish to obtain interest-free loans from the Bank of Canada in order to finance the construction of waterworks for instance, or to carry out any other project necessary and workable involving public expenses, they say this would lead to inflation. But is it not known that when we build a bridge costing \$1 million and that we have to pay \$3 million in interest and \$1 million on the capital, we create inflation because we pay in taxes four bridges, three in interest paid to finance and one to reimburse the capital, while the whole project could be financed without interest through the Bank of Canada?

When our Prime Minister grants gift-loans to Ceylon or Indonesia, as he did during his last trip, and as he has done for several countries in the world almost each week since 1968, no one asks questions. Nor do hon. members oppose. Where will the Prime Minister get almost \$100 million, the amount he agreed to loan over the last three weeks? However, when members of the Ralliement créditiste request equivalent treatment for the provinces, public bodies or school boards, the hon. members on government side laugh.

Bill C-207 is an omnibus bill which is mainly intended to carry out the election promises made by the Prime Minister who, in order to get candidates during the last