

Interim Supply

of Quebec is concerned. I will not say more, I just want to support what he said.

A little earlier I listened to the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) and, as I see that he is now listening to me, I will tell him that he reminds me of St. Michael the Archangel who went around in a suit of armor to fight an evil dragon. I had the pleasure of reading a biography of his grandfather, the late hon. P. A. Choquette, entitled: "Fifty years in politics." In my opinion, there is no doubt that the present member for Lotbinière is, as the Americans say: "A chip off the old block."

Mr. Knowles: In French, please.

Mr. Mongrain: I cannot find words to say that in French.

But, Mr. Chairman, I did not like it so much when the hon. member for Lotbinière mentioned several times in a libellous tone the name of the provincial member for Trois-Rivières, Mr. Yves Gabias. I am not involved in any way in the present provincial election and I am very happy, as a citizen of Trois-Rivières, to say that we have two very good candidates, namely the hon. Léon Balcer, who sat in this house for a long time, and Yves Gabias who has been for two terms a member of the Quebec legislature. I have so little to do with it that I have decided to remain in Ottawa until voting day, precisely not to become involved. On the other hand, as a citizen of Trois-Rivières, if I let pass unnoticed facts or allusions, not to say the running down of Mr. Gabias, even if they come from my very good friend the hon. member for Lotbinière—

Mr. Choquette: Would the hon. member allow me a question?

Mr. Mongrain: Certainly.

Mr. Choquette: Is the hon. member aware of the fact that the committee on privileges and elections of the Quebec legislature applied strict penalties against Mr. Yves Gabias? Is the hon. member also aware that it has taken very serious sanctions against Mr. Yves Gabias who made completely unfounded charges against Judge René Hamel? Does the hon. member know that?

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member for Lotbinière knows very well that I am perfectly aware of what he has just said. With his intelligence and background, he knows very well that I am not trying to overlook a mistake which the provincial

[Mr. Mongrain.]

member for Trois-Rivières might have made. I remember that it is said in the Gospel: He that is without sin among you, let him cast a stone.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I regret to interrupt the member for Trois-Rivières, but I think that he is discussing a matter which is not relevant to the issue now under consideration, namely Mr. Gabias who has been mentioned by the member for Lotbinière.

Mr. Mongrain: Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your advice. You have noted just the same, that it was my colleague for Lotbinière who asked me a question and I thought that it was only proper to answer. He was the one who brought up the Gabias case. I ask the House of Commons not to become involved in provincial elections. I do not interfere myself. We have two excellent candidates and I do not want them to be slandered here.

I shall now pursue my remarks; anyhow, my intention was not to talk about that. What I wanted to say when the hon. member for Lotbinière gave one of our colleagues a verbal thrashing, is that I am not holding it against him. To my mind, we should avoid such excesses of language which are heard by the people and only discredit their authors.

I should like to stress another case which was mentioned yesterday and against which the house should protest. It happens too frequently. I was given a copy of a newspaper from which I quote:

The present electoral system is under the control of the enemies of the peoples: free-masonry, financiers and communists. In order to be elected to parliaments, one must be previously bound to the powers which are active behind the scenes. None of those who claim to enact the laws and apply them, members and ministers, are really responsible for nor in a position to change their ways.

The article bears the signature of that vestal virgin of moral equality, Gilberte Côté-Mercier. I, for one, rise against such an irresponsible statement. I think parliament is not any closer to perfection than the "Bérêts blancs," but a large majority of members of this parliament, if not all, fulfil their duties with all the professional conscience they are capable of and they do not deserve such remarks. I shall not dwell on that, except to say that, to my mind, it is a case of contempt of parliament, if there is any law in that connection.

I come now to the cost of living, which is deemed out of control and which was mentioned by my colleagues. I think they are