

Census Debate Requested

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, if you will allow me to state the basis of my case, I shall do so, in view of the fact that the rules require that I show the importance of the debate. Well, I am showing the importance of the problem and I should like to demonstrate the importance of the debate.

In the constituency of Iles-de-la-Madeleine you will recall the man who signed the affidavits to save the ministers, the one who lodged the complaints to jail the minister's opponents, Frank Décoste, of Fatima.

• (3:00 p.m.)

Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. There is no relationship between Mr. Frank Décoste and other Messrs. Décoste.

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): He is his first cousin.

Mr. Sauvé: Besides, in the Magdalen Islands the representative of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics interviewed some people and the bureau itself selected the census director.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, that proves that the debate is needed. We will find out the names of those who selected them.

In the riding of Roberval, the opponent of the present member was notary Villeneuve, who occupied a high post within the Liberal organization; and now the wife of notary Villeneuve is on the list of commissioners.

An hon. Member: What does it matter?

Mr. Grégoire: The candidate running against the present member in 1963 was a man called Garant and his wife is commissioner, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have here a list of 30 ridings in which 139 names were given. It is the choice list of the Liberal patronage and organization in the province of Quebec.

In the same letter dated March 24, 1966, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters) said:

The commissioners will get \$1,100—

—one thousand one hundred dollars—

—for the full job which might take two months or more.

One thousand one hundred dollars for two months' work and most of the people mentioned here are wives of professional people or Liberal patronage handlers. They do the work at night and that is a reward from the Liberal party.

Mr. Ovide Laflamme (Québec-Montmorency): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. The hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) is at the present time—

Mr. Caouette: Not the hon. member for Villeneuve.

Mr. Laflamme: I apologize, I mean the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Grégoire), who is giving a series of names of people and he does not know—

Mr. Caouette: Oh, oh.

Mr. Laflamme: —their competence. I respectfully submit, Mr. Speaker, that the chief commissioner undoubtedly selected people who are of age and have some education.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order. There is no point of order. Once again I ask the hon. member for Lapointe to co-operate with me so that I will have an opportunity to give a ruling as soon as possible, because the hon. member cannot at this time discuss the matter itself.

An hon. Member: That is right.

Mr. Speaker: He may only enlighten the Chair and his colleagues on the urgency of the debate itself.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt whatsoever about the competence of those individuals, although I might in some cases, but what I wish to stress is that an administrative agency namely the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which must be above politics, was used for shameless purposes of patronage—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Mr. Grégoire: —vulgar patronage, patronage the likes of which should not exist.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I now ask the hon. member to limit his remarks to the matter of the urgency of the debate.

Mr. Grégoire: In any event, Mr. Speaker, I think I have proved my point, namely the seriousness of the problem, since I have managed to stir up the anger of the members of the Liberal party by throwing in their teeth some of their dirty patronage.

Mr. Sauvé: Oh, come off it.