

Abandonment of Defence Projects

But, Mr. Speaker, what about the people in all that? The people whom the recipient of the Nobel prize for peace told in 1960 and 1961 that he did not want nuclear weapons. At that time, the people recognized the defence and peace policy of this good fellow, but today, they realize that they have been misled by the same good fellow who claims he changed his policy because of changed circumstances. But circumstances have not changed and the people have not altered their opinion.

In the issue of the day before yesterday, the editor of the newspaper *L'Echo de la Lievre*, the official organ of the Liberal party in my riding, wrote: down with nuclear weapons. That is what the people, being the people, have understood. They could have realized that if the situation were to change, a war becoming imminent, the government, on the recommendation of the defence committee, could take a new direction.

But where is war today? I must admit the merits of the remarks of the hon. member for Lapointe (Mr. Gregoire) who said: today, hundreds of countries sign a disarmament agreement, and Canada is the only one which accepts nuclear warheads.

If there is a war on today, Mr. Speaker, I think it is rather related to the economy. Seafarers are at war today because they are unsatisfied. The unemployed are at war because they have no jobs. The separatists are at war today because they are disappointed in the stand taken by the federal government. The Liberals are at war today—the federal wing and the provincial wing—because the provincial wing of the Liberal party is not satisfied with the stand taken by the federal wing of the party.

And what about the Conservative party, Mr. Speaker? If they are at war today, it is not so much because they are looking for a leader, but it is the leader who is looking for a party.

We must admit that Social Crediters are also at war, and not because they are looking for a leader, but because they have too many.

It must be admitted that the N.D.P. is at peace, but it is for a lack of fighters; today there are no wars and there will not be any more, since at the present time, as far as the provincial wing of the N.D.P. in the province of Quebec is concerned, the latter manages to avoid any dispute between that provincial wing and the rest of the country.

Mr. Speaker, such is the situation which prevails today. Because of the absence of about 50 Liberal members who could not vote in favour of the Speaker's decision,

which I believed fair, we have to talk two more days on this subject.

Well, Mr. Speaker, if the situation has so deteriorated now, if we have to discuss nuclear weapons, I wonder if this has not been premeditated on the part of the government party. Perhaps they figured that instead of being criticized for two days about the bad situation prevailing in this country, about the dissatisfied unemployed workers, about the compelling necessity of fulfilling their promises, they would rather let the house spend two days talking about nuclear weapons, which did not entail any risk since these weapons are securely installed in this country and that nobody can remove them.

Perhaps this is what happened, Mr. Speaker, but I also envision other possibilities. I see my young friends on the other side of the house smiling, but when I look at my old friends opposite, I realize that they seem very sad indeed, and I think that it is about time that the government party, instead of wasting their energies today to support the stand of the Postmaster General, who liberally dispenses patronage, should better listen to the newcomers, who are injecting, and one has to admit it, new blood into the party in power.

These newcomers have brought with them something which we, Socreds, have also featured in this house, namely perhaps a certain amount of guilelessness, but also of honesty. These newcomers like Social Crediters were sent to Ottawa by their constituents to tell the government: things have been lagging long enough in parliament at Ottawa, we will go there and make our contribution.

I am sure that when the present Prime Minister decides that it is better to respect the younger members of parliament and let them take the initiative instead of defending the old party members, who are giving out-of-date direction—

Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbiniere): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order to reproach my hon. friend opposite, for whom I have a great deal of consideration, for his disrespect for our leaders who enjoy the respect and admiration of all of us.

Consequently, Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to call the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Girouard) to order and to remind him that he must limit his remarks to the subject under discussion.

Mr. Girouard: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the testimony of friendship and respect which the hon. member for Lotbiniere (Mr. Choquette) has just given to his leaders.

I would only wish that the hon. member would stop once in a while and consider the nefarious decisions and policies of his leaders, such as nuclear stockpiling in Canada.