

Secretary could come to the answer, stop the grandstanding and tell the people of Canada where he stands.

Mr. Bud Bradley (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to tell the Hon. Member where I stand. I stand with this Government in supporting Canada's Armed Forces and in replacing their ill-equipped vessels which were given to them and not replaced by previous Governments. We will provide the navy with the required weapons systems.

I notice that the Hon. Member says that he supports but his Party does not. I wonder if he supports a submarine program or if he is talking through his hat.

Mr. Speaker: That concludes Question Period.

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[Translation]

PRIVILEGE

MR. LAPIERRE—ALLEGED INCORRECT INFERENCE IN CHAMBER

Hon. Jean Lapierre (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, I feel I must raise a question of privilege, because during Oral Question Period the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) let his emotions get the best of him and finally impugned my motives. Mr. Speaker, I think we should realize that every statement made in the Simonds case is connected with the concept of free trade, and even the company itself has made statements to the effect that in future it would cover the North American market from its plant in Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, I did not want to mislead the House, far from it! I think that the arguments put forward by the company, by the Opposition and even by free trade supporters . . . I would like to quote to the Minister what was said by, the PQ MNA for Shefford: "Manufacturing of knives and tools will be transferred to Fitchburg, Massachusetts in . . .

● (1510)

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member but if he wants to raise a question of privilege, the Chair must have a very clear position. I would appreciate the Hon. Member's co-operation.

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, I cannot make my position any clearer: It is that the Minister of International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) be asked to have the strength of character to withdraw the fact that he questioned my motives or that he said we voluntarily misled the House.

I can say one thing, Mr. Speaker. Not only was it not done voluntarily, but we did not mislead the House at all. The Minister refuses to face the facts, and instead of reacting like a hard-hearted *nouveau riche*, he should realize what it means to those 131 people to lose their jobs.

[English]

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister for International Trade): Mr. Speaker, if the Hon. Member says that he did not have

this information or he did not deliberately mislead the House, then I will accept that. However, he certainly did mislead the House, because I have just cited a person working in the company at Granby who was quite clear in his position. He is one of the persons being laid off, and he said that there is no connection between the plant closing and the trade deal. If the hon. gentleman said that he did not know about that at the time, fine. I will withdraw my suggestion, if there was one, that he deliberately misled the House.

Mr. Speaker: I will hear the Hon. Member for Windsor West and I note that the Hon. Member for Hamilton East is rising. I want to advise the House, and I think that I should do so, that I have a fairly complex question of privilege from the Hon. Member for Halifax West, and I will be hearing that as well. In the meantime, I will hear the Hon. Member for Windsor West.

Hon. Herb Gray (Windsor West): Mr. Speaker, it had been my intention—and I usually notice this during the Question Period—to raise a point of order on what I consider to be the use of unparliamentary language by the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Crosbie) during the Question Period.

Mr. Crosbie: Give me some examples.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): I want to draw to your attention that at one point in the Question Period the Minister for International Trade used the words "deliberately distort" with respect to a question posed by a Member on this side, and later in the Question Period he used the words "deliberate deception" with respect to remarks made in the Question Period by the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre).

Mr. Speaker: Once again in order to assist the Chair, the Hon. Member cited two instances, do they occur in the same exchange between the Hon. Member for Shefford and the Minister? I only ask that because the Minister has risen and said that if he contravened the rules he withdraws. I just want to know where we are here.

Mr. Gray (Windsor West): I am talking about two separate instances in the Question Period, separated by some minutes of time. The Hon. Minister for International Trade, in responding to the Hon. Member for Shefford, did make some comments about the second instance to which I referred, concerning the Minister's use of the words "deliberate deception". He said, "If the Member for Shefford now says that he was mistaken, he", that is the Minister for International Trade, "withdraws the words 'deliberate deception'".

I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that it is unparliamentary for the Minister for International Trade to use the words "deliberate deception", whether or not there was an explanation given by the Hon. Member for Shefford which the Minister found satisfactory. Even if the Hon. Member for Shefford had not said anything, it would have been improper and unparliamentary for the Minister for International Trade to use the words "deliberate deception".