Supply

Mr. MacGuigan: The hon. members from the opposition are shouting about this. If this is what they are concerned about, if they are concerned about the suitability of Argentina as a nuclear partner, why did not their government cancel the contract?

Mr. Taylor: We were not at war.

Mr. MacGuigan: Their government was then in power, briefly, it is true, by choice of the Canadian people. Because of the kind of judgment they were expressing on this question they were not kept in power very long by the Canadian people. They had a chance, Mr. Speaker, to cancel this contract and they did not do it. Now they are saying that we should do it—because they are over there.

Mr. Taylor: We were not at war then.

Mr. MacGuigan: We understand, and the country understands, the whole hypocrisy of their position.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. the hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs has the floor.

Mr. MacGuigan: Mr. Speaker, obviously they do not like the truth. They find it very hard.

An hon. Member: You are hypocritical. You are two-faced.

Mr. MacGuigan: The truth is always very difficult. We see their hypocrisy of taking one position in government and a different position in opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I think I am in my last minute. I would just say that we are a party which has been expressing the mainstream of Canadian politics. In fact, we have been doing that for generations. That is why we keep being returned to this side of the House. In this case we are also in the mainstream of the western world.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. MacGuigan: I would like to end with a quotation from the Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent—

An hon. Member: I wish he were here now. He would have a different policy.

Mr. MacGuigan: He articulated this philosophy many years ago:

A policy of world affairs, to be truly effective, must have its foundation laid upon general principles which have been tested in the life of the nation and which have secured the broad support of large groups of the population.

• (1630)

We are proud to be in the mainstream not only of the present but also of the past and the future.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent for the hon, member for St. John's West to ask a question?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Crosbie: I have a very short question, Mr. Speaker. The mainstream, of course, will soon flush the minister right out

into the ocean, but is the Secretary of State for External Affairs prepared to table the Argentine nuclear contract and all associated documents which, the minister says, absolutely forbid Canada to make any changes, even in this emergency? Will he produce that contract and table it so that we can see it?

Mr. MacGuigan: Mr. Speaker, at the last meeting of the Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, which I attended—I believe the hon. member was not in attendance but had a nominee asking questions for him—I said I would not table those documents because they contain confidential commercial information.

Mr. Crosbie: Naturally.

Mr. MacGuigan: We are looking at the question to see whether there is any way of easily getting around that, but it appears at the present time those documents are not suitable for tabling.

Mr. Douglas Roche (Edmonton South): Mr. Speaker, it is interesting to note that in the approaches used by the hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam (Miss Jewett) and the minister they recognized instinctively that their cases against this outstanding motion were so weak that they had to resort to trying to divide the Conservative Party. They used the well-known tactic of "divide the opponent when you do not have a substantive argument to offer".

I will get to the minister in a moment, but the hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam began by criticizing the Conservatives for not opposing the sale of Candu technology to Argentina and by saying we are now being hypocritical in this motion. I want to tell the hon. member that when the Conservatives formed the government in 1979, it was that Conservative government which refused a second sale of a Candu reactor to Argentina on the ground that Argentina would not accept the full-scope safeguards upon which my party, and my party alone, insisted. We would not allow Candu sales without those safeguards. I think the record should be made clear in that respect.

Then the hon. member for New Westminster-Coquitlam spoke about El Salvador and human rights. She said my party was without any compassion; I think that was the word she used. I do not know where she was on March 9, 1981 when several addresses were made by various members of my party. I refer only to the one I made on behalf of my party in the debate that afternoon in which I talked about the agony of El Salvador and the repression of human rights there.

Members of the New Democratic Party talk about the Conservative Party's not having compassion or concern about human rights. Who was in government in 1979 when a policy was brought in to bring the boat people of Vietnam to this country? That was one of the greatest humanitarian endeavours undertaken by this country. It was the Conservative government which did that, so I prefer my party be judged