

Canadian Flag

previous speakers and many editorials were read into the record. I fail to understand the restriction at this time.

Mr. Speaker: Order; I think I should answer that. A few days ago it was indicated that considerable latitude had been given at the time the main motion was before the house. An amendment has been moved to that motion and under our rules, as it was announced at the time, the Chair should endeavour to keep the house strictly to the amendment. Surely we can count on the co-operation of the hon. member. Ample latitude has been given for days and days during well over 185 speeches, and I think we are entitled now to stick to the amendment.

Mr. Webb: And yet—

Mr. Ricard: Before the hon. member resumes I would like to draw to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that we have been hearing interruptions ever since he started his remarks. I would point out that those making the interruptions are French speaking members who are so tender about their rights in the House of Commons. Being myself a French Canadian I feel ashamed to have those of my own blood making all these interruptions, and I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, to enforce the rules on them so that decorum may be re-established in the house.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Choquette: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. Standing order 34 (2) clearly provides that when an hon. member persists in irrelevance—and Your Honour has already called him to order four times; so, if that does not indicate irrelevance, then I do not know what does—Mr. Speaker may direct him to take his seat. I believe, therefore, that the rules should be applied, since you referred to strict relevancy, and that you should be adamant and order the hon. member to discontinue his speech.

I think we should all abide by the rules. Incidentally, I should like to point out, if I may, that the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot (Mr. Ricard) knows absolutely nothing about procedure.

I understand that the burden of treason is heavy on his shoulders because of the way he voted yesterday.

Mr. Grégoire: He speaks in English.

Mr. Choquette: I would like the rules to be observed and that you should ignore the member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot, since he is an ignoramus.

[*Mr. Webb.*]

Mr. Ricard: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of all the members on this side of the house, I asked that the rules be observed. I understand that the hon. member felt that those remarks were addressed to him personally, since he is one of those who always interrupts and since he took it upon himself to stand up and try to discredit me.

Mr. Choquette: Poor you.

Mr. Ricard: I do not feel any twinge of conscience for the way I voted yesterday and as far as my constituents are concerned.

What I asked the Chair is to apply the rules in the case of the hon. member who just rose and who continually interrupts.

In asking you to call the hon. member to order, I should like to point out that the hon. member for Lapointe is also one of those constantly making interjections.

Mr. Grégoire: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. For once I support the statements made by the hon. member for Lotbinière. I say that we are ashamed of the attitude and of the treason of the hon. member for St. Hyacinthe-Bagot.

I should like to refer to standing order 34 (2) since the Conservative member who has the floor made reference to freedom of speech. I refer to the standing order which provides that when a member persists in repeating things which have already been said—I would like to point out that according to statistics compiled at eleven o'clock this morning, the word "plebiscite" has been said 3,743 times exactly. Consequently, the hon. member has no reason to claim that he has not had full freedom of speech.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you then to enforce standing orders and to prevent the repetition of things which have already been said 3,743 times. In my opinion, that is sufficient evidence of the freedom of speech granted to members of the house, even for those who are repetitious.

[*Text*]

Mr. Speaker: Order please. The Chair wishes to thank hon. members for the spate of advice, good and bad, tendered it. However, the Chair feels that the hon. member for Hastings-Frontenac (Mr. Webb) is doing his best and I am sure he will follow the suggestions made by the Chair.

Mr. Webb: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why not a plebiscite?

Mr. Grégoire: Three thousand, seven hundred and forty four.