

As my colleague from the Liberal Party suggested, the same companies will be there and the same workers, because by then they will probably be unemployed again. So there is need.

There are rules. We have been reassured by government spokesmen and certainly the Minister of Small Businesses and Tourism told us about the rules. That makes me feel much more comfortable. I know there are rules against the import of heroin, for example. It is nice to have those rules. It would be better if they worked. There are rules against all kinds of things. We regularly pass legislation and we have rules with them and they will work to a point.

However, how long are the rules on the export of weapons of war going to work? We are going to say: "You can only sell them to certain nations and those nations must not sell them to anyone else". Have we done a very good job of watching that in the past? To the best of my knowledge, we did not sell any weapons of war to the country headed by a person who, inside and outside this House, was called the Butcher of Baghdad. Our hands were not that dirty. We did not sell any weapons directly to him. We all know that we sold components that were included in weapons that were sent to him. For 20 years we were content to go on doing business, indirectly, with that person and then all of a sudden we called it quits. We decided we would put on an embargo and stop those weapons from getting to him for a relatively short period. Now we want to open up and sell them to his neighbour.

If we are really thinking seriously about stopping murder on a mass scale, which is what war is, of all the places in the world to send more weapons, surely the last should be what I call the Arabian peninsula. That is probably not the right word for it now—that group of nations in that part of the world, the powder keg, the tinder box of the whole world, the worst place I would think to send anything.

• (1540)

We should be expending our efforts on trying to cut back on everyone's shipments to that area rather than looking for nations within that group of nations that we feel we can trust today and maybe tomorrow, but we are not so sure about the day after.

Our hands will be dirty. Our hands are dirty now; we know that we are selling some of these arms internation-

ally and we are proposing to look for more opportunities to sell them on a wider basis. Is that really good enough? Are we really that desperate? Can we not find useful employment here in Canada for these people who are unemployed?

There has been a great deal of talk in this House about the budget brought down by the province of Ontario. I notice that some \$4.5 billion is being spent on the construction of schools, hospitals, highways. Those are useful things.

If anyone is killed there, it will be because of accidents on roads perhaps or because of accidents during construction. However those are useful endeavours.

Those kinds of things can be done all over the world. There are nations that are hungry. There are nations that are starving. We know that. We know there are all kinds of facilities that could be built there if we want to do something positive, as well as here in Canada. There is lots that can be done.

I believe it was the former head of the World Health Organization, Dr. Hugh Keenleyside, who first said that four-fifths of the world's population goes to bed hungry sometimes, but one-fifth of the world's population goes to bed hungry every day of their lives.

There is much that can be done in Canada alone and also beyond Canada in the rest of the world. We do not have to be making weapons of war to put our people to work. If we manage our economy properly, if we do our jobs properly as members of Parliament, we would not be looking for ways to sell more arms and munitions; we would be looking for ways to serve humanity, both Canadians and those outside Canada.

Those are the kinds of things that we should be working at in my opinion.

Those who spoke before me had their own points of view, and I appreciate that. I am sure each one of them was sincere, and I expect those who follow will hold sincerely the views that they espouse on the floor of this House just as I do. I am not saying anything that I have not said on other occasions, not in this House perhaps but in other places. I believe fervently that it is the route to go. I believe there is a better way for human beings to go, and we are not really demonstrating that when we pass legislation such as the legislation before us today.