

The Address—Mr. Brooks

country but all the countries of the world today, after having passed through two world wars, are faced with the possibility of another. We recall that we were told the first great war was a war to end wars. Then, along came the second world war, almost as devastating as the first. Now, again the peoples of the world fear that they are under the shadow of the sword.

I think, Mr. Speaker, so far as the situation with regard to Great Britain and France is concerned, there has been a lot of misunderstanding—possibly that is an understatement. There has been a great deal of muddled thinking, not only in sections of this country but, more important, in the great country to the south of us. When Britain and France intervened in the Israel-Egypt fight, their announced goal at that time was to protect the Suez canal. I believe every reasonable man or woman in this country believes that today. The purpose was to protect it against war's destructiveness by occupying the canal area and using this line as a means of keeping the warring armies of Egypt and Israel apart until, as it was hoped, the United Nations was capable of taking over the policing of that area. This was their avowed intention. I believe that people will understand that was the reason they went there when all this muddled thinking and misunderstanding in the United States, Canada and other parts of the world is cleared away and the facts are known.

President Eisenhower himself, speaking of the Middle East some time ago, described it as the region most strategically vital on the face of the earth. It is the lifeline, not only of Great Britain and France but of practically all the nations of Europe. Great Britain and France saw that their lifeline was in real danger and they acted quickly, as they had to do, because there was no United Nations force to take over at the time.

Why is this area so important? Well, geography explains that to us. The Middle East is the crossroads of the world. It has been, not only for the past few years but for hundreds of years, one of the most important sections of the world. In addition to being the crossroads of the world it is where Europeans, Africans and Asians meet. It is also the greatest producer of oil in the world today. The economy of any country would die if it did not have access to oil. Great Britain depends to a great extent on the oil that she gets from the Middle East. The life of France depends on it to an even greater extent. Italy, Belgium and all these small countries depend on the oil that they get from the Middle East. These are the reasons

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why it is so important. As a matter of fact, we are told that there are more oil possibilities in the Middle East than in all the rest of the world put together. If this supply were cut off, these nations would be left in serious trouble.

THE LATE OWEN C. TRAINOR

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that under the circumstances the hon. gentleman who has the floor will allow me to make a sad announcement to the house. Another of our colleagues has just passed away in his room in this building as a consequence of a heart attack. Dr. Trainor was a gentleman who had the respect of all his fellow members in this house, and I am sure as to all those who had occasion to have personal contacts with him their real affection as well as their respect. I think we should, as a mark of our deep sense of loss, suspend even this debate notwithstanding the urgency of the matters we are considering until at least the end of the afternoon, and not resume consideration of our business until eight o'clock this evening. If I have the unanimous approval of hon. members I will move:

That this house do now rise and do not meet again until eight o'clock this evening.

I do that as a mark of our sense of deep loss and of our very sincere sympathy with the late doctor's family. I do so move, seconded by my colleague, the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe).

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, may I say that we entirely agree with what the Prime Minister has suggested. We join in the feeling of loss and sorrow that he has expressed.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): We would like to support the Prime Minister's motion. I think it is only right that we adjourn until eight o'clock this evening as a mark of respect for our departed colleague. At the same time I should like to express our sense of shock and sorrow at the passing of this good man.

Hon. W. Earl Rowe (Acting Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this is certainly a great shock to the whole house and we in this party feel it very keenly that another of our members has passed on with such tragic suddenness. We certainly agree with the mark of respect the Prime Minister has indicated we should show at this time.

Dr. Trainor has been one of our colleagues and a close friend. Even when his health was not very good he insisted on being here to try to devote his full energies to our common cause in this session. We all join the Prime Minister in extending keen sympathy