

In order to maintain stability during a period of transition, the Arab states should accept that a temporary and credible United Nations presence or demilitarized zone, or both, may have to be established. In order to assure mutual non-belligerency, the superpowers should guarantee through bilateral and multilateral agreement the mutual security of recognized national sovereign borders. The developed world should be prepared to provide substantial international assistance and guarantees that will assure economic stability in the region.

In the face of the vast economic power of the Arab bloc, Canada, while expanding its long-neglected relations with the Arab countries, must reaffirm that it will never sacrifice principle or its sense of humanity to financial expediency. Goodwill and closer cultural, commercial and diplomatic ties with the Arabs do not, nor should not, presume any diminution of our friendship and support of Israel. A political and administrative vehicle must be found which will assure freedom of worship and freedom of movement for three of the world's great religions in Jerusalem.

● (1242)

In view of Canada's important role on the Security Council during this important and significant time, Canada's permanent representative should have prompt and regular access to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Therefore, a minister or associate minister should be appointed who could give efficient political leadership and guidance for which he would be answerable to the cabinet and to the House of Commons directly.

An amendment to the Bank Act to prohibit any Canadian company, person or bank from supplying information for commercial purposes indicating the racial or ethnic origin, the religion or political affiliation of a Canadian citizen should be presented to the House of Commons.

As long as the Middle East crisis remains unresolved the world continues to confront a powder keg with a fuse of unknown length. Unless international leadership captures, and acts upon, the current positive mood and opportunity for peace it will certainly pass and the cynicism of the rejectionist front position will begin to re-establish its credibility.

The Iraq government's position—that of the leader of the rejectionist front—is that a settlement in the Middle East cannot be found through peaceful negotiation, but rather through force and a final confrontation which will see the re-establishment of a democratic Palestine and the demise of the United Nations created State of Israel.

The world, let alone the Middle East, cannot allow this confrontation that could escalate to Armageddon. The Canadian government's weak initiative in this area is at the best inadequate and inappropriately non-aggressive. For us, as an opposition, to fail to urge our government to positive action in the resolution of the problems of the Middle East would show us not only as derelict in our duty to the Canadian people, but as derelict in our obligations as citizens of the world.

A reconvened Geneva Conference could have positive results if all sides approach the table with a spirit of goodwill and a

capacity to compromise in a way that stresses co-operation rather than confrontation and mutual respect for each other's pride in their deep-rooted cultural identities.

We are all peace-makers. We all want peace and I hope we shall dedicate ourselves today to a concern with the issue of the Middle East in the name of all mankind.

The Address—Mr. Martin

Mr. Alan Martin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I should like to divide my remarks in this debate into three categories. I should like to speak initially on questions relating to the state of the Canadian economy. I then propose to address a few remarks to the subject of the gap which so obviously exists at the present time in the area of what we might refer to as national understanding across our great country. I should like also to address a few closing remarks to the existing and greatly increasing energy crisis which is now facing Canada.

Let me deal, first of all, with the state of the economy. I was not in the House yesterday when the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) spoke in this debate. I missed his contribution and accordingly I searched today through the record of *Hansard* to see whether I could find any really cogent remarks he might have made on the subject, particularly for any carefully-reasoned recommendations which he might have put forward. Such recommendations were largely absent and I found this somewhat surprising, because although he did indicate that other speakers on his side of the House would deal with other aspects of the Speech from the Throne, it seemed to me that in view of some of his public utterances around the country we might have expected him to take the earliest opportunity to direct his remarks in the House to those recommendations which he and others in his party have been working on to cure the ills which they discerned in our national economic affairs.

We note that the distinguished member for Rocky Mountain criticized the government for its deficits, indicating that these seemed to be growing by the week. In the next breath, though, he was proposing recommendations which in his view would help cure some of our economic woes, and among those recommendations was a proposal which would result in less revenue flowing to the government. I do not wish to argue the merits of the proposal itself. Indeed, it might at times be in order to increase the amount of a deficit already running at a substantial figure. The point is, he cannot have it both ways. He cannot make a solid argument criticizing deficits in government accounts while on the other hand putting forward recommendations which would result in substantially reduced revenues to the treasury.

I do not think the Canadian people are entitled to expect that a leader of the opposition should be deeply versed in economics or accounting theory, but I do think that in a country with a budget running to some \$40 billion one might anticipate that those who occupy such an important position as that of Leader of Her Majesty's Official Opposition should at least have a basic understanding of what it means to create deficits and the effect reduced revenues would have on those deficits. How can one advance a recommendation which would have the result of reducing revenue while at the same time