

*Government Orders*

not only of that part of the world, but throughout the rest of the developed and developing world.

We did not have that opportunity here and it is to the great shame of the government for not having consulted with Canadians to do that beforehand and to put both opposition parties in a position where they have to produce amendments to suggest that perhaps there should have been other consultations and that perhaps the government's motion to this point not take the country in the direction in which it should have gone in the first place.

I might share for a moment or two some of the concerns of fellow parliamentarians throughout Europe, having listened and participated in some of that debate as an observer, a very intent observer at the time, as I say, because of the anticipation of being called back to Ottawa.

They were concerned that, in the event that there was not participation by European states and other states in activities that were developing in the Middle East that perhaps one very mundane consideration—the supply of oil resources to maintain the industrial power of the machinery both in Europe and elsewhere—might not be as secure. In fact, energy prices would increase immeasurably. Second, they were very concerned about the heightened Arab-Israeli tensions that might emanate. Third, they were concerned that Europe's participation in any deal with respect to the distribution of those resources could not be influenced by their absence. What would happen if they were involved? All we have to do is take a look at what has happened over the course of the last two months. Oil prices have increased. We have been given assurances, not excuses, but assurances by our energy minister that we could look forward to an additional 10-cent per litre increase in the price of gasoline at the pumps. We have had a redistribution of the economies already begun throughout the world.

They were concerned that there would be increased Arab nationalism. It is there. It is evident everywhere despite the alliance that the Americans appear to have built up. That there would be an exacerbation of east-west tensions is now a matter of fact. It is no longer a matter of speculation. That tensions between the Arab world and Israel would have risen, again, is a question of evident fact and no longer a question of speculation.

Did we consider those things before we made a decision to send our forces into the area? Did we consider what would happen to our economy if the supply of oil was going to be managed by either Arab residents of the area or American multinational oil interests? Did we consider that perhaps in neither case would our interest be served?

All we have to do is take a look at government action with respect to energy policy here today with the kinds of presentations that our energy minister is giving with respect to a very valuable resource for our industries. He is talking already about rationing gasoline and oil supplies. I cannot believe we live in a serious democracy any more. All he is doing is jacking up the price already at the pump and at the refineries.

That would be bad enough, if we had not taken into consideration as well that the government has become extremely insensitive to the evolution of its foreign policy.

This decision by the government runs counter to its normal practice. It reflects, as I said a moment ago, a policy inconsistent with regard both to timely consultation with Parliament and to defence and foreign policy.

In the past the government has felt it incumbent upon itself to recall Parliament immediately. We have seen it, as some of my colleagues on this side of the House have pointed out, a mere five years ago when there was a national crisis because 174 Sikhs landed on the shores of Nova Scotia. If it were not so tragic, it would be laughable.

Yet the government has started to remind us, and it will continue to do so—and I hope to call it to hon. members' attention—that the government will remind us that what led up to this situation with Iraq is in the past. We cannot change what is there, but I am sure colleagues will say: "Of course, but we can at least influence how we will act down the road."

The government is asking for full and unanimous support from the Canadian public for the placement of our forces in an area that is now in a state of war footing.

• (1840)

Cynics will say it is going to happen within a couple of weeks. The greatest of optimists are talking about containing, maybe restraining and retaining the level of conflict. We are putting our young men and women at