

*Government Orders*

seemed so promising about a year ago. I wonder if I could ask my hon. friend those questions.

**Mr. Mills:** Madam Speaker, I want to say to my colleague, first of all on the issue of sanctions, that it is a question of judgment. This is what I meant when I quoted Mr. Trudeau. One can be right and wrong on this issue. Quite frankly, I personally believe that maybe it was because we did not have enough knowledge that we not give sanctions a much longer period of time. In my judgment, and as many members have said, this is an issue of conscience. I did not get a sense that we had given it enough time.

We all know that this is one of the most complex areas of the world and that the relationships and the tensions go back for centuries. I do not have a magical solution. I humbly submit that this is why we must, as the member for Dartmouth said earlier, try to avoid partisanship. None of us has any sort of special ownership on this issue in terms of whether we are right or wrong. This is why we have to let down our guard and speak to each other in a way that somehow we will collectively come up with some kind of solution, and that is the best I have to offer.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis):** Madam Speaker, I apologize because a moment ago I could not rise to speak after the remarks of the Minister of Employment and Immigration. I should like to direct a question to my colleague. Members of the House and the minister know that in my party, in all parties, there are great friends of the State of Israel. This fact is well known, it was referred to earlier, and most of the minister's speech related to that. Indeed we all know that Canada is a friend of the State of Israel. I would have liked to direct my question to the minister, but since I cannot I will put it to you. I wonder whether time may have come for the friends of Israel to realize that as long as the Shamirs, the Beginns and others refuse to admit that if they do not find a solution to the Palestinian issue and to the creation of a Palestinian state—that is what Canada voted for on November 1947—should the people who claim to be the friends of Israel not remind them that the greatest friends of Israel are not blind friends but friends who bring them back to reality?

You know, I have probably known all the Middle East heads of state. When people try to scare me with Saddam Hussein I could tell them all about Mr. Assad, the new Syrian leader who has now become the new ally of the Americans, if you can imagine that. Until very recently, Madam Speaker, Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush were telling Americans that Damascus was the nerve centre of Middle East terrorism. Now he is our ally.

I do not want to be mean, but the young college and university students who are listening to us need to be brought back to reality. One of the first terrorists was the current Prime Minister of Israel, a man we welcome here with open arms and who is called Mr. Shamir. He was one of the leading Polish terrorists with Mr. Begin, but now he is Prime Minister. The fact remains that he was once a terrorist.

I want to ask my colleague whether he believes that the Canadian government should admit that the time has come? My colleagues may agree with me that this war may be deplorable and unacceptable—war is war—but it may finally open our eyes to the Middle East reality and force us to come to grips with the problems generally. This will take time, but we have to start from the beginning, and the beginning is that the Palestinian state will eventually see the light of day. Would my colleague care to comment on that?

[*English*]

**Mr. Mills:** Madam Speaker, I would say to my colleague straight off that I absolutely believe that if there were ever a time when all of us should become more fully aware of all accurate facts in the history of this region, it is now. Obviously that would lead, in my opinion, to us sitting down at some kind of conference wherein all these issues would be resolved.

My answer to the member is yes, absolutely, correct. I think that would be serving Israel in the long term.

**Mr. Jim Karygiannis (Scarborough—Agincourt):** Madam Speaker, I have a question for my colleague from Broadview—Greenwood.

Right now we are in the midst of war. It is very heartbreaking for many Canadians that we are in this situation. However they are—

**An hon. member:** You look very hurt.