

*The Budget—Mr. Colin Cameron*

settlement. First among those problems he placed the situation of the Arab refugees about which, as he said, the world has refused to concern itself. He suggested that until the world was prepared to concern itself about the fate of these people, a settlement would be impossible.

A cease fire is well enough but, as the Prime Minister said today, it is not enough. We have to go on from there. True enough, we must strive for it and bend every effort to get a cease fire because one thing is sure: no matter who may be the victor in the hostilities that have now broken out, the vanquished will be the workers of Israel and the fellahin of the Arab states.

Over ten years ago we did achieve a cease fire, and much of the credit for that must go to our present Prime Minister. We bought time ten and a half years ago, and we did nothing with it; we let it go down the drain. The problems that were there when we sought and gained that cease fire are there today. Those problems are the age-old ones of poverty, disease and ignorance and the bigotry and hatreds that these old enemies of mankind always bring in their train. No matter what the outcome of the present hostilities may be, the problems will remain to be coped with when the fighting ends.

The two peoples who have suffered so cruelly at the hands of so-called western civilization must be brought together, however difficult the process may be, in a program of massive economic development for the whole Middle Eastern area, which program the world as a whole must underwrite. It is not only a debt of restitution to these peoples, both Semitic, who have been the victims of our so-called superior western civilization, but it must also be in the form of an acknowledgement of the debt we owe to these two peoples.

The whole world is aware of the debt which western civilization owes to the Jewish people. Their contributions in the fields of science and the arts are known to us all. But all too often the debt we owe to the other victims of western civilization is forgotten. Seeing them now, struggling as they are out of the suffocating and stifling embrace of European colonialism, we tend to forget that when our ancestors in the Dark ages were sunk in the depths of superstition, ignorance and disease, the ancestors of these Arabs were pioneering in the fields of science, mathematics and medicine and it is on much of

[Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

their work that western civilization has built the structure of which we are proud today.

So, Mr. Speaker, back again to the budget. Canada must take a lead in pressing this sort of program on the whole of the world. Once we can achieve a cease fire we must impress on every nation of the world, big and small, its responsibility to contribute to this type of program. In order that our position and demands may be credible, we in Canada must be prepared to make a substantial contribution ourselves. When that time comes, and I am sure all of us hope it comes soon, there will be no time for the sort of cautious, penny-pinching budgets we have been having of late. There will be no time for the careful balancing of accounts. We must be prepared to take some risks. We must be prepared to put it on the line and remember that the situation that causes us so much fear and trepidation today is the direct result of the callousness, bigotry, stupidity and ignorance which are still all too prevalent in our societies in the western world.

We have inherited a debt and now we must be prepared to pay. I would suggest that there are four or five concrete items which should be in any program that we may establish to pay this debt. The first one, of course, is the achievement of a cease fire. That is a must. But a cease fire alone will not be of much value to the world, any more than was the cease fire of 10 or 11 years ago, unless it leads to a genuine peace treaty between Israel and her Arab neighbours.

There must be a guarantee of the borders of all the nations of the Middle East, Israeli and Arab. There must be an agreement that the gulf of Aqaba is an international waterway and that access to it through the strait of Tiran must be available to all innocent shipping. There must be an immediate and generous settlement of the Arab refugee problem, without balancing accounts, without asking, "Why are they there?" They are there. It does not matter if they went there of their own accord or whether they were driven out—and there are those in both categories. The thing is, they are there, men, women and children, living in appalling conditions of utter degradation and misery.

Today when I read in the newspapers that the Israeli forces had captured Khan Yunis I remembered my visit to Khan Yunis. There I saw one of the most substantial contributions of Canadians to welfare which is to be found in the medical rehabilitation centre of Khan Yunis. They had just opened a rehydration