

*Government Orders*

The minister, speaking for the Canadian government, announced to all Canadians at a Chamber of Commerce meeting: "We will propose that countries who are signatory to the conventional forces agreement in Europe undertake not to export arms affected by the agreement to countries outside Europe". Is Saudi Arabia outside Europe? Unless the map has been dramatically changed, unless there has been another heretical view by the Papal Nuncio on Galileo's view of the world, Saudi Arabia is still not in Europe. It is a direct contradiction of what the minister promised the Canadian people and said the Canadian government was going to do.

I know this bill is being brought in on a day when the Prime Minister is not in the country. The Prime Minister would not stand for this hypocrisy. If the Prime Minister were here today he would defend the policy announced by his government. It is a rebellious group of government backbenchers and cabinet ministers who have grasped this opening and decided to revolt against the statements of the Prime Minister no matter how revolting those statements are and contradict the position of the government.

I ask the government before it is further embarrassed to withdraw this bill and consult with the author of the statement who promised that the Canadian government position would be no sale of arms outside of Europe. If they do not do this, someone will use stronger language and call the government liars. They might do that. They cannot do it by name but they can certainly call a party liars.

That is my fear. Some young witness on television or in the gallery here today might say: "My goodness gracious, the government is lying". I do not want that to happen. I suggest they either withdraw the bill or get the government to clarify the promise made by the minister that they would not sell outside of Europe.

I want to confess. Those admonitions I have been giving to myself and others about my being an *ingénue* are not true. I have seen hypocrisy before but I have never seen it as clear as this. I do not want to mislead the House, Mr. Speaker. I have come to the conclusion that this government is hypocritical, that this debate is a farce, when this government goes outside of this Chamber and makes promises elsewhere and comes in and does something else.

If you are going to sell arms, come up front, do not lie about it to the people of this country and to our European neighbours and say you are not going to do it. Do not tell them to do something you are not prepared to do. Do not go around lying in the world that somehow you are some kind of wonderful paragons of virtue when in fact you deny your own promises made just on March 8 of this year by the former secretary of state.

Do not lie to the Canadian people. Be up front and say that you are in the arms sale business. We understand your position, but the hypocrisy and lying from this government is what is completely unacceptable.

As for the Liberals, my last word to them is: "Stay on the fence". They might win an election that way. Never again will the Canadian people put up with the kind of claptrap with the Liberals denying any position at all and hoping to get votes for it.

Where the heck do you stand on this issue, you Liberals in the Official Opposition. We know where they stand. What are you hiding from? How will you vote on this? We are anxious to see.

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** First, Mr. Speaker, let me congratulate the member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca, my neighbour in the Victoria area, on another very powerful speech.

The issues that this bill addresses are far broader than that of the sales of particular arms. They go right to the very fundamentals of where this country is going with respect to its international policy and its role, as it sees it, in the world.

We have the comments of the former Secretary of State for External Affairs as referred to—

**Mr. Hockin:** Question. Question, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Brewin:** I know I am a new member and I have a lot to learn but I understood this is questions and comments.

I am prefacing, eventually, a question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. member does have an opportunity to have a short comment, and then put a question to the hon. member for Esquimalt—Juan de Fuca.

**Mr. Brewin:** Mr. Speaker, the underlying long-term basic policy issue that this bill puts front and centre is the issue of whether we are going to be a leader in restraining the sale of arms or we are going to continue to