

*Government Orders*

Palestine refugees and the Gaza Strip, we will never get stability in the Middle East.

This brings me to a lighter thing that I throw out not in jest because of the lightness of the moment, but because of the pithy philosophy behind it, and that is my old friend Doonesbury, old Doonesbury the cartoonist. He comes up with a lot of interesting thoughts. Just last week, he had the cartoon that I think we all should remember as we try to hurry this thing along, all since August 2, four months down the road. There is the cartoon. The forces are coming in, Americans are getting off the helicopters—and no one accused me of being an anti-American. I am not anti-American at all, I married one, and am very happy to have married one, and am still married to her, so I am not anti-American. They are coming off the helicopter. There are the two camel drivers. One camel says to his fellow camel: “Boy, Ella, these fellows think they’re pretty smart. They’re going to settle this problem in four months, and we’ve been trying to settle it for 4,000 years”.

Mr. Speaker, in talking about the Middle East, there is an awful lot of truth to that cartoon. So why, when everyone is for economic sanctions and some people raise questions about force. Even congressional leaders in the United States are now raising questions about force. The sad thing about this whole problem to me is that Canada will never have the forces, it never should have the forces of the United States. Thank God, we do not. But we did not exercise Pearsonian diplomacy this summer.

When Bush made the call and we responded initially with others it was to stabilize the situation, because Saudi Arabia was next. That was important, and we moved. Then there was the interval between the stability and preventing further invasion into Saudi Arabia. Saddam Hussein, according to what I read, would have controlled 40 per cent of the oil fields that feed the west. But we changed the mandate, which everyone responded to quickly to stabilize and prevent another invasion. No problem. Work things out.

The next item becomes removing Hussein from Kuwait. I do not know what the mandate is today. Yes, I have heard President Bush. I have heard the Prime Minister. Get out of Kuwait. Yes, aggression should not

be rewarded. But does getting out of Kuwait mean terminating Saddam Hussein? Does it mean, as some members have said here earlier tonight in effect bombing Baghdad back to the cave, involving all the casualties that will make? Does that mean having a trusteeship go in and administer Iraq now that we have elevated President Assad of Syria? He and Saddam Hussein, I gather, are not the friendliest of souls.

It is unreal to even think about the potential of a war when we have so many feudal rivalries which have been there for a thousand years. They are flipping and flopping between one and the other, as some speakers have said the other night, just because some of the bad ones now happen to be on the good side—even though we know they are not very good.

How can President Bush justify going to Geneva and sitting down with President Assad of Syria, an acknowledged terrorist nation that puts bombs in international airplanes? Up until now we would not even talk to him, but because the end justifies the means in a Machiavelian way, we now get in bed with Assad, thinking that that is going to solve our problems in the Middle East, just having fallen out of bed with Saddam Hussein whom we were all for when he was fighting the hated Ayatollah of Iran.

We may start getting into that jigsaw puzzle, what with all the good intentions and serious things that have been said by all members about peace and the best way to try and resolve the problem in the Persian Gulf.

We just should not think of the geography of the world where time does not mean quite what it does in the more western world where we go by the clock. We have an eight-hour day and do not bow down and pray to Allah. We do not watch the old grass grow on the rock as is the oriental custom.

I have become involved emotionally with this problem because I watched the situation escalate. I was all for what President Bush did in getting people involved and Canada contributing. That was when I thought the UN would work things out. But the sadness to me! I have two sons, both fighting age and there is no way that I would want either of those sons to go to fight on the sand of a feudal kingdom where the democracy that we believe in has been put on suspension for 15 years.