

Government Orders

distinct society from the point of view of the efforts we should make for peace.

Hon. Lucien Bouchard (Lac-Saint-Jean): Mr. Speaker, I think I can say we all agree about the package of demands presented by the coalition. However, there are nuances. I know that even among the coalition, there are friendly discussions to determine if Canadian troops should be pulled out immediately and permanently. Some think that they should not, and that they must stay there to insure the effectiveness of the embargo and generally speaking, we all agree on the subject. But on the whole, the answer is yes.

Is Quebec a distinct society, since it is more in favour of peace than other peoples? I don't know, Mr. Speaker. I think that all nations of the world are fairly pacific. I believe in fact that the Iraqi people strives for peace, but I do not believe that their leaders would allow it for the moment. I think that we are a pacific society, aware of its responsibilities, but I do not believe that pacifism and respect for peace is the prerogative of Quebec. We were not able to take part in this demonstration because we had a caucus meeting, but we met representatives of the coalition immediately after, and we have been able to exchange ideas. I must say that this encounter has been extremely profitable for us.

• (2200)

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): Mr. Speaker, I have just a simple comment as we have been asked and I know that time is running out fast.

Without beating about the bush and without any qualification, I want to thank the honorable member for the speech he has just delivered. It is a speech which has raised the tone of the debate to a higher level. This has been done without any partisanship and I cannot help being very sensitive to what the honorable member has just said to the House, since for so many years I have thought that one of the questions which should have been included in the international agenda is this Middle East international peace conference. So many murders, and so many tragedies could have been avoided!

We can go back to November 29, 1947, when the United Nations decided to create two separate States in Palestine. I accept this decision my country made on November 29, 1947, to create two separate States, one for the Israelis with the full rights of a state, including protection, recognition, acceptance, provided another State be created for the others.

I can tell you right now that tomorrow or probably the day after tomorrow, I will deal with this issue and I will be highly inspired by the remarks the hon. member had made because he touched upon nearly all the points on which my attention has been focused for the past 25 years. I am very pleased to say that finally—they say that we preach in the desert, but I do not think so. Without any bias in favour of the government or the opposition. The time has come for whoever is really seeking peace over there to address directly all the problems which are only growing more bitter and adding up.

We could easily develop an argument about this and it is the hon. member who gave me the idea when I listened to him very carefully, because if we address all the major problems in the Middle East, we can establish a relation between them and go back to the source of this major injustice which finally will have to come to an end one day at an international conference. I am happy and honoured to have heard the hon. member refer to Mr. Pearson. Personally, I am sorry for all those who came after him. I have always fashioned my parliamentary life on Mr. Pearson's, perhaps because he was Prime Minister the first time I came here.

[English]

I always said I was a Pearson boy.

[Translation]

In the area of international relations, I have always had the pleasure of identifying with Mr. Pearson and the tribute which the hon. member has just paid him showed, in addition to a lack of partisanship, a true knowledge of the history of this country, something for which I thank him.

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to support the hon. member for Saint-Denis for what he has just said. I think that the member who made these remarks has put his finger on the essential aspect of the situation which now prevails in