

The Address—Mr. Knowles

By voting that dollar we agree to give the government authority to use some of the money which we voted for defence last session, the \$1,775 million, for this purpose. I think the Minister of National Defence at some point in this week's session will have to explain to us how it was that only a few months ago he insisted that that figure was the result of accurate budgeting. We did not believe it at the time, but now when many millions of dollars are needed to move these Canadian troops to the Middle East the extra money does not have to be provided, it is already there in the \$1,775 million we voted. I think we should have some explanation this session as to how national defence budgeting is done.

We also want to know where the contribution which Canada will be making, as we presume she will be making, to the United Nations for United Nations expenses on behalf of the troops in the Middle East is to come from. We would also like to know where the money will come from that will be paid by Canada toward the expense of clearing the Suez canal. We would also like to know just how the expenses of the Middle East force are to be paid as between the pay and allowances of our soldiers and the other general expenses. Are they to be paid directly by the Department of National Defence or are they to be paid by means of contributions to the United Nations, the United Nations in turn paying those expenses?

We feel also that during this session the Prime Minister should give us the same kind of assurance he gave quite categorically in 1950 regarding the part parliament would play in the dispatch of troops to different areas. In 1950 when parliament gave its approval to the dispatch of troops to Korea the Prime Minister made it very clear that if it became necessary to send troops to any area not mentioned in the then existing order in council the section of the National Defence Act would apply and parliament would be called within a 10-day period.

It seems to us that we should have that same assurance at this time, that if it becomes necessary to send troops to any other area parliament will be called. I think the government should also have our assurance that if it is necessary to do that, parliament will give its support to the sending of Canadian troops wherever they are needed for international action to preserve the peace of the world.

These are questions, Mr. Speaker, that we can put to the government when we get into committee of supply on the two items that are before us. I simply say now that we feel

[Mr. Knowles.]

that basically our job in this session is two-fold; on the one hand to make clear our support on behalf of the people of Canada of the steps the government has taken thus far and, on the other hand, to make it clear to the government that the people of Canada expect the government to go on and finish the job. If the government fails to take steps to try to solve these other problems, social, economic and political, the efforts made thus far may well have been in vain. On the other hand, if the Secretary of State for External Affairs on behalf of the people of Canada can play some part in getting a solution to these political, social and economic problems, mankind may perchance even yet look forward to the winning of peace in the Middle East and to the achieving of peace and human accord throughout the world.

(Translation):

Mr. Leon Balcer (Three Rivers): Mr. Speaker, during this debate, we have heard several more or less violent speeches from both sides of the house which shows the importance of this serious matter.

I do not intend to speak at length and I will only make a few brief remarks.

I want to say at the outset that I am in favour of an international police force as long as it is adequate and reasonable. However, I find quite ludicrous the panic shown by our government in asking that the United Nations set up such a force.

During the past three weeks we have heard all sorts of statements, which differed one from the other to the point that they were sometimes contradictory. Our leaders should not panic everytime some incident occurs in the Middle East.

One must be realistic and one must recognize that tension is always existing in that part of the world.

At the present time, one can see that the Arab countries and Israel are spying on each other and getting ready for war, as they are only separated by artificial borders. Moreover, it is from that same part of the world that Nasser, the dictator, not only supports the Algerian rebels, but rouses their feelings and encourages them to slaughter the French settlers in Algeria. As long as this stratagem goes on, one must not be surprised to see the great western nations like Britain and France lose patience and take unfortunate decisions. We must not forget either that Russia will continue to supply arms to Egypt and to take all the possible means to spread its influence in that part of the West so rich in oil, a product which is among the most important in today's world.