

Government Orders

Mr. Hockin: Now you're talking, Dave.

Mr. Barrett: That is true. When the government becomes a hypocrite it is right up front about being a hypocrite. You have got to admire its honesty. When the government is hypocritical it is open, honest hypocrisy which anybody can understand. The Tory's hypocrisy is there for everybody to see, but the Liberal's hypocrisy is being hidden and that is not fair in the political arena of this country. Hidden hypocrisy is worse than principled hypocrisy, even though the government practises principled hypocrisy.

Look at this quote on page 6 from the hon. former minister of external affairs. This is a lovely quote. This went over with senatorial tones by the former minister. This is what he said in Calgary, Alberta, where nobody in central Canada would report it. He said: "28 nations supplied both Iran and Iraq during the eight-year war. Between 1984 and 1988 the dollar value of major weapons exports to Iraq was higher than any other country in the developing or developed world. During the same period, middle eastern countries occupied five of the top six spots as destinations for arms. The Middle East, much of it underdeveloped, has spent a larger portion of its Gross National Product on arms than any other region in the world. There is a worrying, parallel phenomenon of the growth of new suppliers in the developing world, many of whom put few restrictions on their arms exports".

Hypocrisy, shocking, naked, unvarnished hypocrisy coming from this government denying what the minister himself said in Calgary. He said he would not do it and that it is a shame on developing countries that are doing it. Who the heck is now selling guns into that region? Oh, they are just automatic weapons. They are okay; they are safe. You only have to pull the trigger once, so when you kill somebody you spread it around. It diminishes your moral responsibility. If you have to pull the trigger every time then you are more morally responsible, but since they are automatic weapons it diminishes the morality. That is the kind of quixotic thinking that goes on over there in its sheer naked hypocrisy.

Mr. Hockin: Nonsense.

Mr. Barrett: It is nonsense. I am glad that the member agrees with me. I am glad that I have got one Tory who has come to his senses. If I only knew his name and the

seat he represented, I would broadcast exactly who yelled out "nonsense" at the government's policy. I welcome his frank, open admission here on this day of our Lord, May 30, 1991. I will take your name and mail what you said to your constituents.

Mr. Hockin: Mr. Speaker, I resent that the hon. member does not know my name or my riding. It is London West. I do have to object to what he just said by way of hypocrisy. The government is very clear in this bill that we are not dealing in weapons of mass destruction. We have made that point very clear right from the beginning. That is why I am rising on the point of order.

Mr. Barrett: Mr. Speaker, now we have a new dimension of doublespeak. The Conservatives are trying to get into debate under points of order, something that I have wanted to do on occasion I confess. Yes, Mr. Speaker, it is true on occasion I have violated parliamentary rules the same way. That is why I am able to recognize it so quickly.

• (1220)

Nonsense is the operative word. The government says in a speech in Calgary that sending arms into that region is a violation of all common sense and then three months later it is in the business of peddling guns there.

Will we be confronted with the same kind of pious nonsense when the next outbreak of war takes place in the Middle East and the government rushes in to assist, declaring peace must be brought to the region and we find that it is our own arms and it is our own vehicles that have been part and parcel of the killing in the region? Is there a question of morality here? I think so. But the overwhelming morality is the hypocrisy of the statements, as I go on reading from the speech of the minister.

I want to go to page 8 of the same speech in Calgary by the minister. He says: "We will propose that the countries who are signatory to the conventional forces agreement in Europe undertake not to export arms affected by that agreement to countries outside Europe". Here is a clear-cut statement of Canada's position by that minister. The statement was made on March 8. Here we are on May 30 violating what the minister said would be Canada's position. If that is not hypocrisy I do not know what is.