

*Government Orders*

passage which pertained to a Canadian by the name of Stephen Leacock who in 1913 was expressing his fury. He was furious when the Liberal dominated Senate killed the Conservative naval bill which would have provided the money to build three dreadnoughts as an emergency contribution to the British navy.

It almost begins to seem that there are just a very few pieces on the Canadian political chessboard. Whether it is 1913 or 1990, we are still involved with whether the Liberal dominated Senate is going to kill a Conservative bill. In this case another element has to do with three Canadian ships being deployed on an emergency basis, or in that case money provided for their purchase as part of an international peacekeeping effort. Indeed there are many parallels.

That case in 1913, just as the debate we are having now, followed two years after a hard fought election on the issue of free trade with the United States or, as they called it in those days, reciprocity. Here we are many years on and we might well ask: Is there progress?

To come to the present and think of just yesterday afternoon when the statue to former Prime Minister Lester Pearson was unveiled here on Parliament Hill, we can reflect that through his person we see epitomized in fact some of these steps of progress, because he was very much identified with the formation of the United Nations and particularly, for which he was recognized with a Nobel Peace Prize, the role in the Middle East in dealing with the Suez and at that time a new role for the United Nations as a peacekeeper. That brings us again to this theme that I want to explore more: Canada's role as a peacekeeper whether it is in the Middle East or elsewhere, but in keeping with the debate today, most assuredly in the current crisis in the Gulf.

• (1150)

At the end of the First World War, the nations of the world created the League of Nations. At the end of the Second World War, the countries of the world created the United Nations. Now, at the end of the cold war, what are we creating? This is in fact our moment of history. What I think we are creating or have the potential to create is a new world order that coincides and completes the dream, the spirit, and the words of the United Nations Charter, words and the spirit that were

confounded during the long twilight years of the cold war.

When I was a student of international law at the University of Toronto, and after that when I was studying international law at the Academy of the International Court in The Hague, what really came to impress itself on me was the realization that we cannot genuinely have international law until we have international law enforcement.

For a moment let us consider this proposition in its domestic context to drive the point home. I think all of us feel that Canadians are peaceable people and that we are generally law-abiding. I can remember living in Montreal at the time of a police strike in that city. I think it could have been any other city in Canada as well; let me make that very clear. As there were no police forces, the principal streets in Montreal were turned into drag strips, the traffic lights meant nothing, store windows were smashed, there was looting and so on in Canada's premier city.

That was convincing evidence once again that although 99 per cent or more of Canadians are routinely law-abiding, there are always some who are willing to push beyond the limit and to take advantage of the fact there is no one around to enforce the laws, laws formed by consensus that are necessary for the maintenance of domestic peace, order, and good government.

I do believe profoundly that the same applies on the international level. Until we have international peacekeeping forces of a permanent and standing nature, an international police force, international law will lack the essential element of any law and that is the ability to see that it is obeyed. We are not starting on this from scratch.

I referred earlier to the work of Prime Minister Pearson. His contribution was to introduce a new notion about peacekeeping in the Suez context and, in keeping with the UN charter, to see the deployment of military forces from various member countries of the UN, under the blue flag of the UN, into the situation to assert the military force behind international law and order.

We have seen that example. We have seen the most acute example of military action being taken in the case of Korea. However, generally something that all Canadians are proud of is the fact that there has not been a single United Nations peacekeeping operation in which Canadian Armed Forces personnel have not participated