

The Budget—Mr. Colin Cameron

fiscal structure which might well have helped some of the people in our society who at the present time are suffering from the minister's rather careful and cautious approach.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I am planning to trespass perhaps on the indulgence of the house. I know I shall be in order but perhaps not quite proper when I suggest I do not intend to spend any more time on a 12,000-word sermon which really contained nothing but pious exhortation. Also at this time I am not prepared to write a budget for the minister, although obviously he needs someone to do it.

I should like to deal with a matter which may seem to be far removed from the budget but which I am sure is in the minds of all of us. If the government of Canada should follow the suggestions I will make—and I am convinced it will have to—it will have a very distinct effect on future budgets. I am referring, of course, to the tragic situation in the Middle East. I do not propose to discuss the outbreak of hostilities as such. There is nothing useful to be said in that regard; it is too tragic for any words I might have. Still less am I planning to assess blame to the two antagonists in this struggle. Even if it were possible to do so it would serve no useful purpose to enter into a debate concerning who struck first or second. The point is that they have reached this position at the present time.

I think it is time, however, that we began to assign the ultimate responsibility for this appalling situation. The tragic irony of the situation in the Middle East today is that the two peoples of the world who of all people have been persecuted, exploited, oppressed, victims of discrimination and of imperialism by the so-called Christian world of today are at each other's throats largely as a result of the machinations and broken pledges of the western civilization. On the one hand we have the Jews, dispersed and persecuted, discriminated against by virtually every country of the so-called Christian world, many of whom finally were consigned to the horrors of Belsen and Buchenwald. On the other hand, we have the Arabs, victims of the imperial colonial designs of half of Europe who were forced to dance to the degrading tune of their masters. Both are living indictments of the immorality, bigotry, greed and cynicism of our boasted western civilization. It is neither the Arabs nor the Jews who today stand in the dock but rather Christendom itself.

[Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

• (4:00 p.m.)

Memory tends to fade quite easily, and there will be many even in this house who are too young to remember those dark days when news began to seep out of Nazi Germany revealing horrors that were almost unbelievable. At that time we did not believe the reports. We found it impossible to believe that man could sink so low as to inflict these horrors, these bestial atrocities on fellow human beings, but finally we had to believe it. There was no escape. We felt at that time that evil incarnate was abroad in the world threatening to destroy everything decent in human relations, threatening to destroy the frail citadel of humanity that mankind had been able to build with great difficulty in the long struggle from his brutish beginnings.

The Nazis taught the world a sharp lesson with sickening clarity. They taught us the lesson of the depths of the abyss that lies under the thin veneer of civilization, the depths of evil to which man can sink. Sadly, the world did not learn that lesson, did not learn that the pathway of evil which led to Belsen, Buchenwald and Dachau started in the minds and hearts of otherwise decent men and women who tolerated and permitted injustices, indignities and humiliations, however seemingly trivial these injustices and humiliations appeared to be.

All across this country there are institutions with invisible but clearly legible signs which say, no Jews need apply.

Mr. Cowan: I like your sermon better.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I did not hear what the sapient member for York-Humber said.

An hon. Member: It was not complimentary.

Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): I do not imagine it was. All across this country we have institutions and organizations which, as I say, not having the courage to print the words clearly, have these invisible signs which are all too legible to our citizens and say, no Jews need apply. Most of our decent citizens, and most Canadians are decent, are ashamed of this situation. We should be more than ashamed, we should be terrified, because this is the path that led to the horrors which overwhelmed the world 30 years ago.

I do not propose to recite the history of the beginnings of Israel. It is being rehashed today in all the papers and magazines by all the