

Government Orders

Also let me refer to a very persuasive article in *Newsweek*, the edition of April 8, 1991, by Anthony Sampson, the author of a number of books on international players, including the arms bazaar. He says:

It will not be easy to withstand national pressure to sell weapons for short-term economic advantage. But if we cannot face up to the danger and the opportunity this time, we may not have another chance.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the wisest words of all come from the prophet Micah, who said:

He shall judge between many peoples,
And rebuke strong nations afar off;
They shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
And their spears into pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war any more.

This House has a chance to say "stop." I plead with the government to withdraw this bill. Failing that, I plead with the House to defeat it. I ask all Canadians who are watching this debate to let their members of Parliament know that they want this bill stopped.

Mr. Joe Fontana (London East): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the member of the New Democratic Party. He makes a compelling argument that yes, it is incumbent upon all countries, including Canada, working in concert with the international community, obviously, to work towards peace and towards the eradication of weapons. But it has to be a collective and an international agreement.

What Canada does in isolation will not solve the arms control problems of the world. We are a very small player in this particular area. While we all agree that peace should be something we all work towards internationally, one has to be very realistic. I find it rather peculiar and hypocritical in a way—

Mr. Barrett: One has to be realistic.

Mr. Fontana: I find it rather peculiar that the New Democratic Party, which says it stands for workers and labour, would suggest it is going to add to the human misery of people and put them on the unemployment pile. Not only 700 people from London, Ontario, but close to 5,000 other people across this country, in New Brunswick, British Columbia, Quebec, all these other people are directly related to something which is legal at this point. In fact, the New Democratic Party's sugges-

tion is that we ought to get rid of Pratt & Whitney, which develops engines that go on helicopters. We ought to get rid of the aircraft industry, Buffalo aircraft, for instance, which are sold to other countries. They may or may not be used for military purposes. The fact is that you are talking about 50,000 or 60,000 people. You are prepared to put them on the unemployment rolls. That is absolutely ridiculous.

Mr. Speaker, let me ask a question of the member of the New Democratic Party, who professes to be standing for the working people. The CAW in London and CAW across Canada supports this measure. I want to ask what he is going to tell the workers in those plants, not only in London, but across this country, who depend on these jobs. You know, 10 or 15 years from now, who knows if the world can get its act together and talk about the kinds of things that he just talked about. If it can, that is fine. But what is he going to tell those men and women on the plant floor that need those jobs? We have 1.5 million unemployed in this country and our industries are going down the tubes.

• (1130)

Mr. Brewin: Mr. Speaker, the member voices the very dilemma that this House is called upon to resolve. I would be very interested at some point in hearing what the Liberal Party's position is going to be on this question. I hope we will hear sooner or later from the member on that.

But let us just pull the dilemma right up. First of all, the precise answer to the employees in that area, is that the government should immediately sit down with the company, the community, and the employees involved and begin developing alternate industries and alternate ways of earning of a living. The transition from a military economy to a civilian economy is one that has been long delayed and it is time we got on with it.

He says that maybe in 15 years the world will get its act together. It is not going to get its act together if the Conservative Party and the Liberal Party persist in nibbling away, step by step, at the restraints in arms control we have. If we do not get our own house in order, how can we ask the rest of the world to do that?

But let us also look at the economics of this. There are workers today, as the member has pointed out, who may face a job loss if this bill does not go through. But if this