

*Government Orders*

together on the eve of these events. We in the Bloc Québécois would have liked to be able to vote with the government. We would have liked to see the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party do so as well.

Unfortunately, that cannot be, because the government has decided to depart from Canada's noblest and most admirable tradition, that of seeking peace above all. Looking back over the events of the past months, we do not see a government that is above all concerned with peace. We see a government that is very concerned about Canada's place in the world and about the credibility of its relations with its traditional allies. A government that is very anxious not to be seen as the odd man out. But we are not yet seeing, the courage that should have shown and that we must still show for our great tradition of diplomacy to prevail, that tradition that made Canada loved and famous the world over as a peace-loving country. It is the country that people love and respect and that they want to stand among the concert of nations. What other nations are expecting from us now is the invention, the boldness, the spontaneity, the open-mindedness and the courage of a Pearson to try to propose other solutions.

• (2150)

I am not saying that we will devise some inspired solutions. Many ideas are already been set forth everywhere. We know, for example, of the idea of a peace conference. Some may come up with others ideas, but right now, the best idea which has been proposed is that of a commitment to a peace conference. Maybe I am naive, but I find very strange that people are uncomfortable with the idea of a peace conference on the problems of the Middle East, including the question of Iraq, the palestinian problem, and the conflict between Israel and the Arab nations. It seems strange to me, that there are two kinds of resolutions and declarations in the United Nations. There are, on the, one hand, declarations and resolutions which legitimize the action that some countries are about to take, that is to break out in war, because it is important to respect the United Nations, and it is important to apply immediately the United Nations' declarations and resolutions. On the other

hand, other resolutions have been adopted on a regular basis for some 20 years by the United Nations, and again as recently, as last December 20. These resolutions are calling for the implementation, at last, of a negotiation process as applied to the global problems of the Middle East with a view to bringing about peace in the Middle-East, and these go unheeded.

We know that our Israeli friends do not want such a peace conference for the moment. We know that they need to be recognized. We know that they need to sit down with people who do not wish to destroy them. We love the Israelis and, for my part, I love Israel. All my life I have admired Israel. I have thought that this country was one of the greatest epics in contemporary history. All my life, I have seen in Israel destiny, which is confirmed today in this country and which is the one we know, a long and sound loyalty to what this country is. Who can be against the loyalty of a nation who wants to assert itself, who wants to be itself? At the same time, I believe our friends also have a commitment to peace, and it is hard to imagine we can some day find a solution to what is happening in the Middle East if, once and for all, we do not cut the Gordian knot. The warring factions, all those who have a difference of opinion, must at last sit down at the same table face the problems, and look for solutions. It cannot be done, as long as we do not recognize the evidence of a problem.

Palestine is a powder keg, and we know full well that Iraq is a small part of this huge tapestry which is casting a pall over peace in that very important region of the world. We know as well that this is the way international and world-wide conflicts erupt. We can see all the ingredients which may combine into an international conflagration from which even the eastern and western worlds might not escape unscathed, quite the contrary.

This is an international obligation. You will say: "Yes, but this conference can be held later, some other day." Sure enough, that is unavoidable, one does not have to be a great prophet to realize that some day there will be a peace conference in the Middle East where all nations will be represented around the table in a successful quest for solutions. I am sure of that. But why should there be