

The Address—Mr. Knowles

security, in establishing the rule of law and establishing it so firmly that everybody must be expected to follow it, establishing it so that it will be clearly recognized that the only way to deal with breaches of the peace is by collective action.

That view has been expressed in this house academically when we have been debating external affairs. It was expressed very strongly when we were debating the sending of a delegation to the San Francisco conference in the early part of 1945. It was also expressed when we gave support to the joining of the United Nations by Canada, and it was expressed again in 1950 when we were confronted with the necessity of contributing to the United Nations force in Korea.

As I read the records of this house there has been unity on this question of collective security, the rule of law, and implementing that idea in supporting police action by the United Nations down to the present time. We reach now the most critical case the United Nations has ever had. We reach now a time when the United Nations needs the support back home of the countries represented at the United Nations, and in this short special session we have been confronted with something less than the complete support that we thought and hoped we would have for this policy.

We looked and hoped for this support, as I say, because of the stand all parties in this house have taken across the years. And so, Mr. Speaker, we feel as I said at the start that one of the purposes to which this house should be addressing itself in this special session is making it clear that the Canadian people are behind this policy of the rule of law by collective action in world affairs. I hope that even yet there will be voices of support from the only party in this house that seems to be opposing the government on this occasion, the Progressive Conservative party. My friends to the left, like ourselves, are supporting the government's policy even though we may have suggestions to make and criticisms to offer. The only party that is opposing the government is the Progressive Conservative party, which has moved an amendment which represents a vote of non-confidence in the very policies we are down here to discuss. But I hope that even yet voices in the party to the right will recognize the fact that it would be far better for the peace of the world if they would join in supporting this good Canadian policy at this time.

Mr. Nesbitt: There would have been no rule of law if the Russians had got into Egypt.

[Mr. Knowles.]

An hon. Member: Why not cross to the other side of the house, Stanley?

Mr. Knowles: My hon. friend says there would have been no rule of law if the Russians had gone into Egypt and he is perfectly right; but, Mr. Speaker, if the Russians—

An hon. Member: They are in there now.

Mr. Knowles:—had moved into the dispute between Israel and Egypt and taken the law into their own hands we would have said, "This is in violation of the rule of law; this must not be tolerated." It would have been said in much stronger terms than those in which it was said in this case. I think the government is to be commended for the moderation that was used in describing the action of the British and French, and commended at the same time for taking a strong stand in the setting up of an international police force to go into the Suez area.

Mr. Fulton: About six months too late, that is all.

Mr. Knowles: But, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated at the start, we feel there is another purpose to which parliament should be addressing itself in this session. We should be reminding the government in the clearest terms we can that the job has only been started, that in terms of securing peace in the Middle East, in terms of securing peace in the world, there is a great deal yet to be done.

I remind the minister and the house of the points that have already been laid before parliament by my leader, the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggan (Mr. Coldwell) and by my colleague the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Stewart). We feel, for example, if I may use the words of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, that the momentum generated recently at the United Nations should not be lost but should be used to carry on to the winning of a political settlement of the issues in the Middle East. That political settlement must include a recognition by the Arab states of the existence of Israel. It must include a peace treaty between those states and Israel, with the clear understanding that all have a right to live in that area.

We feel too that the time has come when consideration should be given to extending the United Nations police force to the other borders of Israel on which there is at the moment real concern. Indeed the news today suggests that there is concern as to what is happening in Syria. Even as last January and February, we urged that the United Nations should do something about the trouble between Egypt and Israel, so we now urge that