

The Address—Mr. Brooks

Mr. A. J. Brooks (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I will now continue my remarks where I left off this morning. My speech, as all hon. members know, was interrupted by the adjournment of the house due to the tragic death of my dear friend and colleague Owen Trainor, and I wish to join with the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), the Acting Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Rowe) and others in their words of sympathy and condolence to Mrs. Trainor and the members of the family.

Before proceeding with the remarks I intended to make I would like to congratulate the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Pickersgill) and the government on the announcement they have made. It seems to me a very obvious attitude for the government to take. As the minister has said, these people have no money; and to expect them to pay their passage to Canada without assistance would be asking of them something which would be impossible. I am glad they are having free passage and I assume, Mr. Speaker, our government is doing the same for them as the United States and every other government that is receiving Hungarian refugees.

We hope the visit of the minister to Vienna will assist in moving them more rapidly to this country. Our ministers have a habit of travelling; they travel all over the world on the slightest provocation, but if this visit will really assist the Hungarian refugees and expedite their passage to this country I am sure we in the opposition have no objection at all to the minister leaving the house. No doubt we will miss him somewhat, nevertheless if he is doing some good in Vienna we will be very pleased indeed.

An hon. Member: Let him stay there.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is what is called praising with faint damns, is it not?

Mr. Rowe: They are in the air most of the time.

Mr. Knowles: Not so faint at that.

Mr. Brooks: At the time of the adjournment this morning, Mr. Speaker, I had spoken of what I considered the muddled thinking and the great misunderstanding and confusion that existed in the world and among certain of the western nations regarding Great Britain and France and the readiness which we regretted on the part of certain quarters to assume that two of the oldest and most honourable nations of the world, France and Great Britain, had committed an act of naked aggression; two nations which I suppose have done more to promote civilization in this

world and have done more in past years to assist smaller nations than any other two nations in the world. I think that attitude is to be greatly regretted.

I was also speaking of the importance of the Middle East to the western world and particularly to Europe. I had mentioned the fact that today oil was the very lifeblood of the industry today not only of Great Britain and France but all the nations of Europe. I had spoken of the fact that the Suez canal was, is and has been the lifeline of the European nations. I said we realized the great anxiety that existed on the part of these nations in considering that this lifeline might have been endangered.

As well as the importance of the Middle East to the western world, I think it might be well to speak of the explosive situation that exists in that particular part of the universe in its attitude toward other parts of the world. There is no great unity among the Arab nations and there has been no great stabilizing factor in the Middle East since British troops were withdrawn from the canal zone a few years ago. Someone has said, and I believe it is a fact, that the only unity there is in the Arab world today is their unity in the hatred they have of the Israeli nation, so it is no wonder that nations are very much concerned over the situation we find today.

Now, what has been the policy of Great Britain in the past regarding the Middle East? For many years Great Britain has been the stabilizing factor in the Arab world. Great Britain understood the situation. Great Britain, as Churchill said not so long ago, has had a long and honourable association with the Arab nations. It was Great Britain in the first world war that relieved these nations of practical bondage under the Ottoman empire. The soldiers of Great Britain fought for the freedom of the Arab nations. It was Great Britain which helped to set up these nations, provided protection for them and saw that there was some established form of government in the six or seven nations which were created at that time.

As far as Egypt is concerned, we speak about the proposed Aswan dam. Hon. members know that at her own expense Great Britain built not one dam but five or six dams in that country not only for irrigation but also for the development of industry. She helped to build railways in different parts of the country and bridges across the Nile. She spent her money freely for the assistance of those people. That has been the policy of the British government for many years as far as the Middle East is concerned.

[Mr. Pickersgill.]