

REMARKS OF CONGRESSMAN LES AuCOIN
OREGON COMMITTEE FOR ISRAEL BONDS
June 3, 1981

In George Orwell's book, 1984, the people were duped by something called "doublethink."

It was best reflected by the slogan: "War is peace, freedom is slavery, ignorance is strength."

Orwell happened to write this book one year after the State of Israel was founded. Today, in the 33rd year of Israel's life, the author could have taken stock of a new phenomenon in American thinking and added one final line to that slogan. The line would be:

"Your adversary is your friend."

I know of no other way to describe the revisionist thinking — that may be on the upswing in America and certainly is in Europe — with regard to who our friends actually are in the Middle East.

Specifically, it's becoming very fashionable just now to think of Saudi Arabia as our "friend." In the media, you can find increasing references to the Saudis as one of the "moderate" Arab states.

And in Europe, if you were to make a judgment based on the statements of those lionhearted, courageous allies, you would believe that Saudi Arabia is almost more of a force for peace than Israel.

Now we find that the new Administration has proposed selling the Saudis new, offensive weapons — in the theory that this will buy Saudi Arabian loyalty and support and will protect them from their enemies.

Well, my friends, I'm not interested in theory. Tonight, this is going to be a conversation about reality.

America has a dependable friend in the Middle East and that friend is Israel — not Saudi Arabia.

You tell me. Would a friend raise the price of oil 1000 percent in the last eight years? Would a friend trigger a savage rate of inflation in this country? Would a friend bring the Third World to the brink of bankruptcy? Would a friend endanger the American banking system by coercing billions of dollars in questionable loans to underdeveloped countries who are being flattened by those same oil prices?

Moderation? Is it moderate to state that the solution to the Mideast crisis is a "holy war" leading to the extinction of Israel and her armies and her people?

I rather think not.

Nor is there truth in the notion that the Saudis are moderates on OPEC oil pricing. For sure that the Saudis have resisted certain price hikes advocated by the Libya's and Iraq's of the world. But if any American thinks that that's doing us a favor, they're very, very wrong indeed.

To understand the Saudis' real motives, we can go directly to the words of Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Shiek Yamani himself. This was in January in a talk at the University of Petroleum and Minerals in Saudi Arabia. Listen to Yamani's words:

"If we force Western countries to invest heavily in finding alternative sources of energy, they will. This would take no more than seven to ten years and would result in reducing dependence on oil as a source of energy to a point where it will jeopardize Saudi Arabia's interests."

There you are. The Saudi's don't want to do it to us all at once. They prefer Chinese water torture. And they're banking that this steady systematic method will exploit us more completely in the long run and that America, the amiable sleepwalker, will not wake up — economically or politically.

This is the "friend" who now asks us for some of the most sophisticated weapons on the face of the earth — weapons that would be a sure threat to Israel and, just as importantly, to the security interests of the United States.