

Government Orders

If we should continue to fail, and by that I mean if war does proceed, I would hope that our government in Canada would be the first to call for a cease fire almost the moment it begins. I hope they will get that dirty deed over as quickly as possible and get on with the peace settlement as quickly as possible.

Let us be the last there to enter with guns. Let us be the first there to bandage and rebuild that which we have laid to waste. May we all be forgiven for not preventing the massive state sanctioned slaughter.

Mr. Prime Minister, may you go that extra mile for peace today, before the shot is fired, the day after the shot is fired, and on until we have secured peace and security in the Middle East and in the world.

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Madam Speaker, I must commend the hon. member for Fraser Valley West on that thoughtful, compassionate, and passionate speech. I hope it touched the heart of every other member in this House as it indeed touched mine.

I would like very briefly to read excerpts from two brief documents to the member and ask his response to them.

A little more than 50 years ago, on September 8, 1939, in this House, J.S. Woodsworth rose to explain why it was he could not support Canadian participation in the Second World War.

Toward the conclusion of that speech, he related a little anecdote in which he said:

When the call came for us to come to Ottawa, I was staying at a little summer resort near the international boundary south of Vancouver. Near Blaine there is a peace arch between the two countries. The children gathered their pennies and planted a rose garden, and they held a fine ceremony in which they interchanged national flags and sang songs and that kind of thing; a beautiful incident.

J.S. Woodsworth said:

I take my place with the children. I know it seems very foolish, but as I talked the other day with a young woman whose proposed marriage was about to be postponed because her perspective husband might be called to the colours— I thought that for her the possibilities of life were fading away. Again I recall a talk the other day in my own city of Winnipeg to a group of young men who came to see me, some of whom have been unemployed for months past, who were wondering whether they should jump at this opportunity of getting a job. I do not care whether you think me an impossible idealist or a dangerous crank, I am going to take my place beside the children and those young people, because it is only as we adopt new

policies that this world will be at all a liveable place for our children who follow us.

At my office in Edmonton this afternoon I received a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister. It is from my St. Michael's School. In its brief entirety, it reads: "Dear Prime Minister Brian Mulroney: This is a very serious letter. We just want to let you know that Canada has been famous for being a peacekeeping country, not a warmaking country, and we want to keep our country with peace and not start war. Please keep our soldiers here, don't get Canada involved in the war; besides no one forced Canada to fight so please understand that we are trying to ask as a simple favour. Please Bring Our Canadian Troops back home; don't get Canada involved with the war. We, the grade six class, are writing this on behalf of our whole school." It is thereafter signed by 18 names.

• (2230)

Madam Speaker, I too stand with the children. I ask the hon. member if he does.

Mr. Wenman: Madam Speaker, I think there is some kind of a song that says "let the children lead the way". Sometimes people say "Let the women lead the way, they are for peace", and that sort of thing. Undoubtedly, we do have to look to the children in their innocence.

The hon. member mentioned the great peace arch between Canada and the United States. There are two sides on that peace arch. There is an open door symbolizing the open border between Canada and the United States, two nations which do not even need weapons or guards on their border. You just pass through like an open door, that is what that peace arch stands for. It is a symbol of what the world can be and what national relations can be. On the top of that peace arch, it states "Children of a common mother", meaning children of a common mother of the United States and Canada.

The children of Iraq and the children of the world are the children of a common mother. They are children who need to be protected, cared for and preserved, not bombed, not the most innocent victims of the war. It is the children that are the innocent victims.

On the other side of the peace arch it states "brethren dwelling together in unity". These slogans, which I remember as a younger person sounded a little corny to me, but do they not sound real tonight? Is that not what the world needs, that open door, that peace arch,