

Government Orders

Mr. Nunziata: He includes tomorrow's resolution as well.

Mr. Mifflin: That is where we differ, then. If tomorrow's resolution is included, then that is indeed where we differ. It is a shame that it has taken six hours of debate to sort this issue out.

In response to my friend from Halifax West, I could assume that he would agree with this as well.

I find it somewhat difficult again that there has been this kind of confusion in the House. I will say to the public who are watching that these interpretations are so important that perhaps it is necessary for the Parliament of Canada to debate it word for word, sentence by sentence, phrase by phrase, so that the public does indeed appreciate what is happening. I only wish that we had had this debate before we committed our forces. Those are the kinds of questions that we could have asked and the whole operation itself could have been thought out a little more clearly. The answers to some of the questions that we are now asking could have been at least anticipated.

Mr. Patrick Boyer (Parliamentary Secretary to Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, just very briefly, because in spite of what I thought was an effort to try to clarify this, it seems there still may be one point that is not clear.

What I said four or five minutes ago was that the government is referring in the resolution to the Security Council resolutions which exist or are before us, including the resolution that will be debated by the Security Council tomorrow. Whereas the Liberal Party amendment, I believe, refers to the date of November 28, which is today. Clearly, the intention—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I think that I am certainly confused by what is going on here. What we seem to get from one Liberal member, the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, is a very clear statement that the Liberal Party is opposed to this resolution.

Now, we hear from the hon. member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception, in response to the parliamentary secretary's assurances that it is—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh.

Ms. Hunter: I am trying, if you would give me a chance, to clarify for the Canadian public, and I think that is the very least we can do when the issue we are

talking about is going to war. If there are divisions in the House, I think they should be exposed.

I would like the hon. member for Bonavista—Trinity—Conception to please indicate how he will be voting if the Liberal amendment fails? Is he going to vote in a different way than the hon. member for Notre-Dame-de-Grâce?

Mr. Mifflin: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure why the hon. member is so exercised about this.

An hon. member: There's the enemy right there.

Mr. Mifflin: She is exercised at the government, I hope.

I think I made it very clear in my comments that I am not going to support a motion that says I signed a blank cheque, irrespective of what has been said. The hon. member is asking me if I would approve the understood version of the government's motion, that is, to approve the UN security resolution, whatever the next one is? Is that the question she is asking?

• (2100)

I think I made it very clear. I have great reservations with that. Normally I do not support something on which I have those reservations.

Mr. Don Boudria (Glengarry—Prescott—Russell): Mr. Speaker, I have just one very short comment and question for my colleague.

First of all, I want to congratulate our gallant colleague for his remarks earlier today. I want to bring just one issue to the attention of my colleague. He indicated in his remarks that there might be a point in the future, regrettably, where force will be necessary, but we have not reached that point yet.

I think he said that first we must do everything that we can in order to ensure that force is not used.

I just want to remind the House of an expression used by our leader earlier today when he said—

[*Translation*]

“Every possible effort must be made to find a peaceful solution”.

[*English*]

In other words, we must turn the world upside down if we have to in order to try to find a peaceful solution. To me, those words were very well put. In other words, we must not spare anything. We must try everything that we can. I think my colleague has told us that we have not reached that point yet. I want him to confirm that very clearly to all members, particularly the one who was