

Government Orders

tried to raise it on the *Order Paper*, it was ruled inadmissible.

What is the expected cost of hostilities for a day, a week, or a month? I am informed that if we were to go to war, the total costs of a 10-day conflict—and that would be a short conflict, I suspect—would equal the total cost of the United States conflict in Vietnam for one year, ten days equal one year. Those are astronomical sums.

Why the January 15 deadline? It seems quite artificial. Of course, related to that is: Have we really had the time to know whether or not the sanctions have worked?

Why is Canada, so rich in energy resources, still dependent on foreign oil? This is a major concern of Canadians. What is the government doing to control the price of fuel, including gas for Canadians? Will there be shortages? That is the second series of questions.

[*Translation*]

Finally, Mr. Speaker, where does the government find the money to send three ships, a squadron of F-18s and the necessary troupes to the Persian Gulf when it is unable to adequately help at least 5 million Canadians who are poor? Among those poor are senior citizens, a majority of women and more than one million children.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member has a minute to wind up.

Mrs. Stewart: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the number of casualties that will be envisaged, there are discrepancies in numbers, but one of the numbers that is bandied about is 65,000 dead if war were to break out in the Gulf at this time.

In terms of other costs—the costs of lives is no doubt the greatest cost that we are concerned about—we can be assured that the cost of war will be far beyond any cost of maintaining sanctions at this time.

I have just a final comment with regard to the UN resolution itself that we cannot support at this time. We feel it is premature. We believe that sanctions can work and the wording of it is very vague in what it authorizes, “that member states use all necessary means to uphold and implement Security Council resolutions and all

subsequent relevant resolutions and to restore international peace and security in the area”.

Any of the western allied countries could take action under this resolution. That includes Syria.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Marie Gibeau (Bourassa): On August 2nd last, Mr. Speaker, Iraq launched an unprovoked attack against Kuwait, a small neighbouring state, which, to defend itself, sought the assistance of the international community, as it was authorized to do under the United Nations Charter.

Concerned that the Iraqi forces would go beyond the Kuwaiti borders, Saudi Arabia also asked for international assistance to check the Iraqi threat. The United States and a group of other countries from Europe, the near East, Asia, as well as Africa, responded by dispatching forces to Saudi Arabia.

On the basis of a strong international consensus never achieved before, the Security Council quickly condemned Iraq and ordered it to leave Kuwait immediately. It is clear today that the decision of the Security Council has the support of almost all nations.

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The Hon. Member for Shefford rises on a point of order.

Mr. Lapierre: Mr. Speaker, while thousands of Canadian soldiers are probably risking their lives, there is not even quorum in the House. If I may, Mr. Speaker, I should like you to check whether or not there is a quorum. Because of the tremendous importance of this debate, I suggest it would be worthwhile.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member asks if there is a quorum.

And the count having been taken:

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There are 20. There are enough people for a quorum.

[*Translation*]

Mrs. Gibeau: So, Mr. Speaker, I continue.

It is therefore clear today that the decision of the Security Council has the support of almost all nations.