

Government Orders

It is unprecedented in history that that would happen. Unprecedented. It is very important that Canada support the world view. We are living in a world that somehow seems to be filled with individuals like Saddam Hussein in various parts of the world from time to time. Madmen.

We have supported the United Nations over the years, and it is very important that we continue to do the same thing in this House.

A vote will take place on this, Madam Speaker, and you might say that it is academic, but it really is not. I think we need to have an overwhelming show of support for our position in the United Nations.

Again, as the former Prime Minister mentioned last evening, we are citizens of the world, and we have a collective responsibility to act as citizens of the world against an aggressor nation. That is simply what Saddam Hussein is: an aggressor who has picked up on his power and ability to inflict torture on others.

If I may, I would like time to finish. Saddam Hussein has spent a lifetime inflicting torture on others. Other members opposite mentioned the cost of the war that we are presently going through. What is the cost of waiting? How many lives have been lost in Kuwait in the last six weeks? We will never put a number on that. Never.

The suggestion is that it is in the hundreds of thousands. We will never know. That is the type of individual that we are dealing with. There has not been peace since August 2, so it is not a question of war and peace.

The question of war began on August 2 when he entered a neutral country and took advantage of it, decimated it—men, women and children. It is up to us to take action against Saddam Hussein. We have done it, and we are very proud of our position.

• (1800)

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Madam Speaker, at the outset, the first question that has to be asked of the hon. member who just spoke is how many lives have been lost in just the last 12 hours? Over 100,000 at least. Maybe as many as 350,000 to some counts.

The hon. member who spoke before him spoke of sanctions. The hon. parliamentary secretary quoted

Maude Barlow as saying that sanctions only affect the poor. But we have to discuss this in an honest fashion. How many sanctions have been recorded? How many do we know of? How many examples are there? How many missing pieces are there to that sanctions puzzle?

The Centre for Strategic Studies in the United Kingdom told us and then showed us on network television the shortages of metal for bullets and shells, shortages of petroleum, refined petroleum, gasoline, cars and trucks in the line-ups, people waiting hours for their gasoline.

We are discussing a motion:

That this House reaffirms its support of the United Nations in ending the aggression by Iraq against Kuwait.

That argument has gone on in this House. We put forward an amendment. We lost the amendment.

Now we have our men and women in the Armed Forces at war. These men and women have much pride in the duty they have to perform in the gulf. I know somewhat of the pride they feel. I grew up through the cadet movement. I was a second lieutenant in the Armed Forces for a period of time. So I understand what it is to be proud of that uniform.

My question for the hon. member who just spoke is this. We know what the situation is today. We know how many lives are being lost and will be lost. The question is, what are we going to do from this point on? Is the hon. member aware of any peace initiatives being carried out today? Is the hon. member aware? He certainly has the chance to tap one of the 13 members of the war cabinet on the shoulder and say, "What are we doing now?". I would welcome some information from the hon. member on what he is doing, not only personally, but what he is aware his party is doing to initiate these important peace initiatives that must begin now.

Mr. Thompson: Madam Speaker, the hon. member's question was quite lengthy. It goes into the question of waiting, as originating in the hon. member's statement.

One thing that I wanted to point out during my speech is a document entitled "The Price of Waiting. Amnesty International. Iraq Occupied Kuwait on August 2". It is a list of atrocities that were perpetrated on the people of Kuwait, as well as his own people.