

S. O. 31

[English]

HUMAN RIGHTS

Ms. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Mr. Speaker, Canadians greet this day with deep sorrow and sadness. We have failed to resolve international problems by peaceful means. People, as I speak, are being killed by a war that we helped to initiate.

As a Korean veteran, I want to say that war and killing are never a solution. During past times of crises and tight security in Canada, civil rights of Canadians have been threatened. Canadians of Jewish, Ukrainian, German, Italian and Japanese origin, *et aussi les Québécois* can attest to this.

It must not happen again. Just as we will support families of our Armed Forces, we also must support families of Arab and Middle East people living in Canada. We must widen our understanding of their culture and religions, prevent discrimination and prepare to open our doors to refugees.

Above all, we must work together to end this war now. Canada must find peaceful alternatives to help resolve Middle East problems.

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GULF CRISIS

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, the grim reality of war brings many solemn thoughts to each of us. Three of them especially come to me today.

I know, for example, that I speak for every constituent in Fredericton—York—Sunbury in expressing deep and abiding concern for the men and women in Canada's Armed Forces now in the Middle East and for their families here at home.

This has intimate implications for a great many people in our riding, particularly those at CFB Gagetown.

As a member of Parliament, of course, I share the torment which each of us must feel as we accept the risks and responsibilities of decisions relating to war.

I stand firmly with the Government of Canada but obviously it is tempting to be on the side of the angels when one is not required to confront the devil. As a Canadian concerned for the unity of our own country, the war-torn tragedy of the Persian Gulf magnifies for me the absurdity of separating Canada in any form and intensifies the challenge for all of us to make sure that never happens. Let us commit to that challenge as we have also committed to restoring the peace in the Middle East.

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GULF CRISIS

Ms. Beth Phinney (Hamilton Mountain): Mr. Speaker, watching the events unfold last night, faces of Canadian servicemen and women kept flashing through my mind. I commend their courage. I mourn the loss of their youthful innocence and I pray for their safety.

The many calls I have received from my riding of Hamilton Mountain clearly show that although Canadians did not want this war, their hearts and prayers are with our military.

While we are trying to come to terms with all of this, we must focus our minds on looking for a cease fire and for ways to deal, with fairness and justice, with the horrendous consequences of war. Now is the time to assume Canada's traditional humanitarian and peace-keeping role.

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GULF CRISIS

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, as ye sow, so shall ye reap. Mr. Hussein's war has entered a new phase and multinational forces have now entered the fray to expel Iraqi forces from occupied Kuwait. This multinational force is acting under the authority of the United Nations to implement resolution 678.

It is appropriate and proper that Canada and its forces should participate in support of the alliance for three