

Government Orders

soldier and death. The skin will be penetrated by this gas. I am truly saddened, and although I have prepared a series of arguments to convince this government not to go to war, I would like to end on a note of extreme sorrow. I share the sorrow of all Canadians that we have not been able to prevent the onset of war.

I am reminded of the great right hon. Lester Pearson who orchestrated peace at the Suez Canal in 1957. In accepting the Nobel Peace Prize he said: "The grim fact is that we prepare for war like precocious giants and for peace like retarded pygmies."

I am really saddened and I hope the devastation of war that I fear shall not come to pass.

Ms. Hunter: Mr. Speaker, to conclude this question and comment period, I would like to respond. I think that it is important to note the obvious: that bombs do not distinguish between Canadians, Iraqis, Kuwaitis or Americans. They do not distinguish nationalities. They also do not distinguish between soldiers and civilians. They do not distinguish between adults and children.

This is a terrible day for the world.

Miss Deborah Grey (Beaver River): Mr. Speaker, we obviously are at a very precarious moment in the history of Canada right now. Although I certainly had my remarks prepared long before my time was due to speak, right now we must be aware of what we have seen on TV in the preceding 20 minutes or half-hour or so.

This truly is the most difficult moment in my entire life. I was born long after World War II ended. As a Canadian citizen right now seeing what is happening in our country, it is truly devastating and very frightening.

I certainly believe that all Canadians are in agreement with the world-wide condemnation of the unprovoked and unjustified invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. I think it is important that Canadians acknowledge and recognize that we support the United Nations Security Council and its objective of ensuring that Kuwait is re-established and that Iraqi troops are removed from it. It is necessary to assess adequately and exactly what requirements and sacrifices Canadians will be called upon to make in order to meet these objectives. I will just put a P.S. on my remarks here. We in fact are in

that conflict right now. I think that all of us in this House need rise above any partisan interests we may have and say, are, regardless of what our feelings are about this issue, and all of us have deeply held and very strong views about it—that we must band together and not pay any attention at this point, to what political party we belong or what our persuasion is. We are Canadian citizens. We know that this has in fact begun. We must stand together and say: "We are Canadians and we must abide by what is going on right now, whether we like it or not".

It is important that beyond the principle that Kuwait should be sovereign we as Canadians certainly are aware of what are these options to achieve Kuwait sovereignty. On the cost of these options, certainly we have to ask the question whether they are economic or military. I dare say that they are a combination of both.

Unfortunately, again, because of recent developments, we are speaking in the middle of this incident as it is in fact unfolding. We are aware, world-wide, that Saddam Hussein has not been influenced in any way to comply with the UN resolutions to leave Kuwait peacefully. Of course the main tool to date has been economic sanctions. Many will say that those sanctions have not had a chance to work.

Those of us who have been following the news hour by hour in these last several days, have seen Saddam Hussein and his entire Iraqi Parliament standing up and chanting: "With our blood and with our souls, we will die for this cause and go to death for Saddam". We are seeing the painful results of that tonight as we are participating in this debate at this very moment.

All of us would have wished that this would have resolved itself peacefully. Obviously nobody has wanted to or would continue to want to resort to force. But again, as I have thought about this personally and politically over the last few days, the question begged to be asked: How long do we keep economic sanctions going and when would we ever have broken Saddam Hussein? He acknowledged right up to the end, until we are in this position right now, that he would not back down and that he would carry on.