

### *Government Orders*

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

An amendment was moved to the motion to add:

"through the continued use of economic sanctions, such support to exclude offensive military action by Canada at this time."

It is somewhat ironic and cynical to be debating this issue at this hour, 8.05 p.m., four hours less five minutes to the deadline. It is theatre of the absurd.

The die is cast. I do not know what that die will mean, but certainly Canada and this debate are not going to effect the changes that would be required if we wanted to have a different outcome.

It is unfortunate that we were not able to get into this debate in a much more enlightened way, and certainly sooner, in the course of the events that have led us to this moment.

I rise with a great sense of sadness, concern and yes, a degree of despair at the way events seem to be propelling themselves forward in the Persian Gulf. I know I share that view with many Canadians. There seems almost to be a sense of resignation in the air as the breakout of hostilities in the Persian Gulf appears imminent.

Canadians just have to turn on their TV sets to see the military strategies being played out time and time again, scenarios that must frighten men, women, children, mothers, sons and daughters. I fear that this war, if it comes, may have come too quickly, and I regret that this government did not fight with more strength and conviction when it held that important seat on the Security Council which would have enabled it to promote the role of sanctions to a much greater extent.

Sanctions have not been given enough time. For whatever reason, the coalition of countries is now backed into a corner from which there appears to be little room to exit. Under these conditions, Canadians feel very helpless. They see and sense a degree of powerlessness, and I share that sentiment.

I share that sense of being unable to change the course of history. I recall the feelings I had as I saw the faces of the school children describing their fear of what is to come on the television cameras last night.

To be sure, as the hours tick down toward the UN deadline, no stone can be left unturned, no avenue

should be left untested, and no option for peace can be rejected out of hand. At the same time, we cannot afford to give up on the very reason that the allied nations began this whole effort, to turn back Saddam Hussein's aggression without condition, and to stop this madman without offering something in exchange, without giving him a reward for the atrocities that he has committed and without making a linkage to other situations in the Middle East, because that is absolutely ridiculous and is not related.

I believe that we can, even at this last minute, achieve effective change if there is the public will on the part of all the countries that have come together to apply sanctions and to tighten the belt. At least we have the moral obligation to try that first. It must be very clear so that we can never say that we did not try all the options, that we did not try at least until they proved that they could not function.

• (2010)

To date, many experts have said—and that includes the director of the CIA and former Secretaries of State of the United States—that it is far too early to expect evidence of the effect of sanctions. I say to the House, give this action some time, let this embargo continue, give a chance to Saddam Hussein to halt, if it even means for him to save his ugly face, and let us try to find a peaceful solution.

No one wants a war. No man, woman, child, mother, father, sister, brother—the whole family constellation whether close or far apart—have the right to express themselves to their country, would ever want to choose war. War is a very devastating and miserable experience.

We do not live in a perfect world. No one wants famine either, but look at what is going on once again in Ethiopia, in the Sudan, and in other parts of the world. Hunger and famine exist in this not so perfect world.

No one wants human rights to be violated, but look at what just happened within our television memory of a day in Lithuania. Human rights are being violated. We have already forgotten what happened in China in Tiananmen Square. But in this imperfect world of ours, these things happen. It does not mean we have to accept them. It does not mean we do not speak out against them, but we cannot be constantly up in arms. We have