

Government Orders

colleagues on both sides, to continue to ask questions to the minister.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is that agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

An hon. member: No.

• (2140)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): No. There is no consent. The hon. member for Hamilton West has the floor on debate.

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, I find it quite ironic that we are prepared to ask the Minister of Defence very important questions instead of asking other members across the way. We achieved almost unanimous consent until the NDP decided we did not want to ask any more questions of the Minister of Defence. That is intolerable.

The Prime Minister declared while speaking on the motion dispatching Canadian troops to the Persian Gulf on September 24, that Canadians have never looked for a free ride and would not begin to. I want to begin my remarks with a plea to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister of Defence to exercise patience, to re-examine our role in the Persian Gulf. Take a step back.

Unlike governments before him, the Prime Minister's refusal to recall Parliament once our troops were given their orders further illustrates the Prime Minister's unilateral and cavalier attitude toward Canadian public opinion. That action has brought discredit on this country, which has turned a country once highly praised for seeking peaceful solutions to world problems into a subservient partner of American militarism.

This House will remember that even recently deposed Margaret Thatcher recalled the British Parliament in order to deal with the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq; the French National Assembly in Paris was similarly recalled, but not our Parliament, not our Prime Minister. He was in Kennebunkport, Maine, with George Bush, absorbing, agreeing, and then regurgitating the policies of the American way.

I wanted to speak on this matter earlier this fall, but the debate was extremely short, despite pledges that the

House would give ample time and opportunity to discuss the matter. Part of that earlier motion before this House called on Parliament to affirm its support for resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council, which imposed sanctions against Iraq over the invasion and occupation of Kuwait. I supported those resolutions. The actions of the Iraqis are reprehensible and are to be condemned. Sanctions are a necessary component of forcing Iraq out of the sovereign state of Kuwait. However, I do not support the resolution which will go before the United Nations Security Council tomorrow, nor do I support the blank cheque, through this blanket motion before us tonight in the House.

In fact, for 18 of the 20 minutes I listened to the Minister of National Defence I did not have much argument with his speech until the last couple of minutes when he enunciated, and made it quite clear that we had to support the resolution, referring to the last three words, "and subsequent resolutions".

Canadians are simply looking to the Minister of National Defence and the Conservative Party to spell out the end of the resolution. That is what the motion by my colleague is prepared to do.

The resolution which will be voted on tomorrow in the Security Council demands that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait by January 15, 1991. It "authorizes member states—to use all necessary means to uphold and implement resolutions 660 and, subsequent resolutions and"—this is a caveat, "to restore international peace and security in the area". Members of this House will know that Canadians—especially Canadians tonight—should know that, if passed, this resolution does not create a United Nations force to kick Iraq out of Kuwait. There would be no direction from the United Nations for any military action. No, the United States would be at the head of any military operation along with its allies, which include Canada. The resolution would merely rubber-stamp the desire to expel Iraq by force.

The caveat is that the resolution has been framed in such a way that it authorizes those nations that have troops and weapons in the Gulf against Saddam to restore international peace and security in the area. This resolution can be construed no other way than not only to permit the expulsion of Iraq from Kuwait by force, but also to continue the battle in Iraq for who knows how long?