

sion, we will watch the death and destruction live, first hand, and see the people crying and suffering for months and months.

What cost to those who suffer? What cost to my child and your child who watches that on television night after night? We do not even know if we can accomplish the objective. They say we can accomplish an air strike, but once we get down to digging in, and the rainy season and so forth, we are not quite so sure. We think. We are not sure.

Can we accomplish the objective of the removal of Iraq from Kuwait? How many soldiers will it take? How many families? How much property destroyed? Is it 100, 100,000, or one million? How many lemmings are going to have to run off the cliff before we are willing to assess the abyss at the bottom? What is the bottom line on all of this?

I ask everyone listening in the House of Commons and across the nation: Are you willing to sacrifice your son or your daughter for the cause of removing Saddam Hussein? If any one of you vote for that, you are voting for a sacrifice of the families of Canada's young men and women who are there, and you are voting for the sacrifice of millions of others: Americans, British, French, Kuwaitis and Iraqis.

When I ask myself that question, I say: "I do not think I am ready." I have teenage sons, like many here. If I have to sacrifice my son and pay that price, I want to think again. I ask my son, and what does he say? He is a member of the reserves. He says: "Dad, if I am called, I am going." He will. It is pretty scary stuff when it hits that close to home, and we need to make it hit that close to home before we make any decision or before we stop trying to negotiate.

I am not willing at least at this stage—I do not think I ever will be—to commit my sons to a sandy, forgotten grave in the desert. If I am not willing to do that, how can I possibly commit the sons and daughters of other Canadians whom I am charged to represent here?

Timing could well be a factor. How much time is enough? Everybody has been arguing about how much time is enough. Who knows? Nobody knows the answer to that one either.

Government Orders

Before we sanction force, why do we not tighten up the blockade? What have we been waiting for here? Why are we not sanctioning Iraq, Jordan or Turkey into compliance with the land blockade? Canada seems to be doing a good job covering half the people of the interdictions in the ocean in the naval blockade.

If they cannot do the job of enforcing the land blockade, why do we not go in and help them? Why do we not tighten up that blockade? We should have tightened it up after the first month or as soon as we could see that in fact many products were getting through.

One of the speakers said today: "Oh, we cannot do that because the only one who gets hurt are the people. The army does not get hurt". Quite frankly, if I was in Iraq right now and was given a choice, of deprivation of food, and the other amenities of life or a massive bombing by the war machine of the entire western world, I think the choice would be rather easy.

I think that I would choose, of course, to recognize that that suffering is better than the loss of life itself. There are so many things yet to consider.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that you are aware that there is a panic in Canada right now. People are watching their television sets and they are switching from the channels in the United States, to the channels in Canada to the channels that are coming from Britain through their satellites. They are switching to hear the news of the world. They are switching and hoping that on that news they are going to hear somebody say: "We can resolve this without war. There will be no war".

When I talk to my wife on the phone about this, she told me that her stomach was sick and in cramps as she contemplated the horror and realities of this impending war.

I was impressed with many of the speeches today. I was impressed with the speech of the Secretary of State for External Affairs. I was impressed with the calm logic of is the Leader of the New Democratic Party. If that represents different sides, they did not really sound too much different, both of them wanting to prevent war.

Surely we can keep trying. We need to try once more, once more, and then once more again, because the alternative is too terrible to contemplate, let alone to have to vote upon.