

*Government Orders*

this thing peacefully, as has our Prime Minister and as has our Secretary of State for External Affairs, but to no avail.

• (1750)

That evening I got into the personal side of conflict, the personal side of war and what it is like for individual members of Parliament. That evening I spoke of my son's involvement in the gulf, not knowing at that particular time whether or not war would come about but certainly hoping and praying that it would not. But as I speak, he is positioned about 80 miles from the Kuwait border in Saudi Arabia. So the issue becomes very much personalized for me as a member of Parliament. I guess, when I speak, I am speaking not only as a politician, a member of Parliament, but also as a father.

I think that in a sense is what every member of Parliament in this place has gone through. Not all of us have a son or a daughter in the gulf, but all of us have friends and neighbours and associates that do have sons and daughters, men and women, in the gulf. Someone pointed out to me that every soldier is someone's son or someone's daughter. That is certainly true. Those human emotions have certainly come through here in the last couple of days.

I think every member of Parliament has been on an emotional roller coaster, not knowing even at the 11th hour, the 12th hour, whether or not it was going to come to this, come to war, but it has.

Just to review history a little bit, if we take a look at what happened about a year ago in Europe and what was happening around the world, it appeared that peace was at hand in a sense, if we can use that term, that the walls in Europe were coming down; that some of the old traditional barriers that have troubled us for years were tumbling. It looked as if there was going to be a new world order. The cold war in a sense evaporated and we were into a new time of peace.

But on August 2, that vanished. On August 2, Saddam Hussein moved into his neighbouring country and simply took it over in the most brutal fashion known to mankind. He spared no one. Women and children, young and old, they all perished at the hands of this international madman.

Why did he do it? It was simply thievery carried out at the grandest level. One anthropologist told me when I was going to university that that is usually what brings about war, theft at the grandest scale, one country attempting to take over another country, in fact stealing that country. He did not do it for any ideological reason. He did it simply to take it because in the taking of Kuwait he would be in possession of about 25 per cent of the world's known oil reserves and using that economic tool to inflict more pain on other nations as time went on and to take over other neighbouring Arab states at his own free will.

That is what the western world faced on August 2: How do we drive this individual out of this country?

We have used all peaceful means to do that, even at the 12th hour. This individual simply had to pick up the telephone and say that he was willing to negotiate, that he was willing to go back to his home country, leave these people alone and restore international order.

He simply did not do that. He had no intention of doing it. It is the same individual, the same madman, who put his own people through eight and a half years of war with his neighbouring country of Iran, at a cost of approximately one million people.

And then what does he do? He attempts to neutralize the country that he attacked and some of his neighbours who he fought for eight and a half years only to keep them neutral in this conflict that he is in now to do so, and gave up every single piece of territory that he gained in that war.

That is what we are dealing with. We are simply dealing with a madman.

Yesterday in the House of Commons, our former Prime Minister, John Turner spoke very eloquently to attempt to explain to the Canadian people the situation in the gulf in relation to the United Nations. He was very convincing. In his words, it is simply a war that has been sanctioned by the United Nations to drive out a common enemy.

To quote Mr. Turner yesterday: "No, this is not an American adventure. It is a United Nations action in collective security, one of the greatest historic developments of our time." It is one of the few times in modern history when virtually all the countries of the world have come together against a common enemy.