

• (1710)

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Madam Speaker, my answer to my good friend is no.

**Mr. John Nunziata (York South—Weston):** Madam Speaker, I have been a member of this House for six years and I would like to put a question to the member for Vancouver Quadra.

On a number of occasions, while he was leader of the Liberal Party, we had occasion to vote in this House on matters that some of us considered matters of conscience, in particular the votes on the Meech Lake Accord and on cruise missile testing. At the time the member said it was essential that the party stick together, even though some of us felt that we ought to express our own point of view.

I would like to ask the member for Vancouver Quadra what has changed. What makes this matter of conscience any different from other matters of conscience that this Parliament has had to deal with? Can he explain, if his views are so strongly held, why he did not attend caucus over the last six months to explain to his colleagues—

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** I would find it rather difficult to apply the question, which the hon. member has just asked, to the intervention made by the right hon. member for Vancouver Quadra. Resuming debate, the hon. Minister of National Defence.

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of National Defence):** Madam Speaker, I have been a member of this House since 1979. I have heard people make speeches because they should make speeches. I have heard people make speeches that were important and will be read. I have just heard a fine speech from the right hon. member for Vancouver Quadra and one that will be read not only in this Parliament in later years, but in others. I want to thank him.

I do not thank the hon. member, Madam Speaker, on my behalf of my party, but I thank him on behalf of other Canadians. I thank him on behalf of the men and women who are serving Canada today in the Persian Gulf and will serve Canada tomorrow in others areas of the world, continuing to bring about peace and security and a more peaceful order so that we all can have the kind of world that we wish. Those men and women will appreciate, I

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am sure, the depth of the hon. member's feelings, not just from the way he delivered his address, but from the decision he made to deliver his address.

We gather here in a very serious and difficult time for the world. Last evening the deadline established by the United Nations in resolution 678 had passed. As the Prime Minister said yesterday, "The opportunity to bring about peace or war was that of Saddam Hussein". It was his decision to make. He initiated a crisis in August by his naked aggression against Kuwait. He could have ended that aggression in a peaceful manner.

From the outset Canada has played an active role in the management of this crisis. Canadian forces ships and aircraft have been on patrol in the region for the last number of months. We sought to have a peaceful end to this crisis. No one in this House, no one in this Parliament seeks war.

What we seek is justice for Kuwait and order in that region of the world.

Members of the House should understand part of the sense of why Canada is in the gulf, and why we will continue to do our part to support the United Nations and the international coalition that has been assembled.

I want to take the next couple of minutes to review some of the activities that have taken place and how this crisis came to cause Canadian men and women to be deployed in the Persian Gulf region.

I want to address the central issue. The central issue of this crisis is pure and naked aggression, brutal and unprovoked. The central question for the world is can we allow that aggression to remain unchallenged. I want to remind the House how this crisis started and why.

On August 2, when Iraq launched a massive invasion in the middle of the night against its much smaller neighbour, Kuwait, it used a force of some 150,000 military personnel, some 12,000 tanks, and some 1,000 armoured vehicles. It used those against the people of Kuwait who had a military force of some 20,000, one-fiftieth of the military force of over one million that Iraq has.

Iraq not only captured Kuwait City, but began a systematic ravaging and pillaging of the country's resources and its most precious resource people.