

Government Orders

As you will know, Mr. Speaker, although the headlines portrayed the disturbing incidents at Kanesatake last night as a surrender, in fact it was a final act of defiance.

Aboriginal people are now concerned for the immediate safety and personal security of those being held at Farnham military prison and by the Sûreté du Québec. Many Canadians are concerned that the disturbing events of last night could precipitate further civil disobedience or possibly even acts of violence. Canadians are also insistent that the people apprehended at Oka are treated with full respect to criminal and human rights laws in this country.

I trust you will recognize the immediacy and the urgency of this matter, Mr. Speaker, and will rule accordingly.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Mr. Speaker: I take nothing away from the seriousness of the matter that the hon. member has raised, a matter of concern to all members here and to Canadians across the country. I also point out that there was a long debate two nights ago and I think that it would be appropriate to wait and see how events unfold later on today.

The hon. member has raised a matter which is, as I said, of great importance, but at least at the moment it would not be appropriate to order an emergency debate. I thank the hon. member for raising the matter.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

IRAQ

INVASION OF KUWAIT

The House resumed from Monday, September 24, consideration of the motion of Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):

That this House condemn the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and, encouraged by the unprecedented international consensus demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the full restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait, affirm unequivocally its support for Canada's actions in the United Nations Security Council and its support for all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions adopted since August 2

and for the despatch of members of the Canadian Forces to take part in the multinational military effort in and around the Arabian Peninsula; and

That, upon adoption of this motion, the said motion shall be deemed referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.

and the amendment of Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):

That the motion be amended after the words "Canadian Forces" and read:

enforce these United Nations resolutions;

That this House censure the government for not recalling Parliament at the earliest opportunity to fulfil its legitimate function of consultation and debate as to what role Canada should play in the resolution of the present crisis; and

That upon adoption of this motion, the said motion shall be deemed referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.

and the sub-amendment of Ms. McLaughlin:

That the motion be amended by adding the following after the word "resolutions"

"And further, that Canada work at the Security Council to seek assurances that no country will undertake offensive military operations against Iraq unless they are under UN command and explicitly authorized by the Security Council."

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question? The hon. member for Northumberland.

Mrs. Christine Stewart (Northumberland): Mr. Speaker, today I rise to continue debate on the motion relating to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. I must say to begin with that it is with dismay and great trepidation that I rise as the member of Parliament for Northumberland to debate this issue.

I have been devoted for most of my life to non-violence, have advocated non-violent resolution to problems, and now represent a constituency in Canada, a country which at this present time is close to open warfare in the Middle East. This puts into jeopardy the lives of many Canadian men and women, each one whose lives are sacred to me, each one of those people who right now with our Armed Forces are very important to me, each one who are as a sister, a husband or a wife to me. It is with great trepidation that I rise in the House to present my views on the government's action and inaction, and to express my concerns about the motion on the floor of the House today.