

Quebecers are fiercely opposed to such a war because they know that all other options, besides war, have not been exhausted by an American Administration determined to go to war.

In time, the United Nations embargo would have played havoc with the Iraqi economy.

This embargo was not yielding results fast enough for President Bush. So, we find ourselves at the brink of a war our government wants our country to take part in.

This House has the duty to listen to the Quebecers and Canadians and to vote against Canada's participation in a pointless war which would have much more devastating consequences than what it is meant to correct.

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[English]

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Greg Thompson (Carleton—Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, residents from both Canada and the United States came together in St. Stephen this past weekend to express their support for a peaceful resolution to the crisis in the Persian Gulf.

This non-denominational gathering held at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church organized by Mrs. Joan Jones, Mrs. Key Halstead and others was intended to bring people from all faiths on both sides of the border together in a common expression of concern for those men and women who, in a matter of hours from now, may find themselves embroiled in a war in the Middle East.

This is typical of the growing movement on the part of people throughout the world that world peace be preserved and that international order be restored at the earliest possible opportunity.

I quote Mrs. Jones when she said: "The situation is frightening, and if we ever needed to pray together, this is the time".

• (1410)

[Translation]

CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, yesterday we heard the disturbing news that Radio-Canada French listeners and viewers will be getting second-class information as a result of the budget restraints forced on the CBC. And all that because the government is bent on destroying our national institutions.

We simply cannot accept the fact that, at a time when Canadians need to be told what is happening in the gulf, not by Belgian, American, French or other media but indeed from a truly Canadian perspective, they will not have their own teams of reporters on the scene.

[English]

Second, I ask Parliament to reaffirm freedom of the press and to protest the reported U.S. military plans to restrict the flow of news in the gulf.

[Translation]

The Canadian Association of Journalists has stated that imposing such rule will blind both TV and press reporters, and hide important facts from Canadians who want to and must know what is going on. This situation is unacceptable to Canada, and I hope Parliament and the government will do something to set things straight.

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[English]

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, all Canadians should take pride in the effectiveness and success of our Canadian forces in the gulf.

Our service personnel are as good as exist anywhere in the world. Our men and women in uniform are professional and well trained to do their jobs. They, of all Canadians, do not look forward to war, but are prepared to do their duty. Furthermore, their families and most Nova Scotians stand with them.

One question that I am repeatedly asked by service personnel and their families in the metro area is why are the members of Parliament from Halifax and Dartmouth not standing with us and endorsing what we are here to do. That is a good question and one those members should answer in this House today.