

going to cheapen their commitment to this country by allowing the circus that normally happens here to take away from the importance of the decision that they made to serve this country because I think it would be an absolute shame. I for one will conduct myself for the rest of this debate with those things foremost in my mind.

Mr. J. W. Bud Bird (Fredericton—York—Sunbury): Madam Speaker, I would like to compliment the hon. member on his speech. I feel strongly as well about the importance of members of the House coming together in objectivity and in constructive debate. It is also important that we do not let hypocrisy become the order of the day.

I have been extremely conscious in this debate of the charges of following the party line and subjugating myself to the will and whims of others. I would like to make it very clear that I stood throughout this debate with the government. In November, I spoke solidly in favour of the government's position and I continue to support that position.

I have some difficulty with the speech of the hon. member today. I applaud him for his position but I cannot quite accept the conversion to constructive non-partisan performance. I witnessed his leader three days ago support a statement that said upon the outbreak of hostilities the Canadian forces should be withdrawn from the theatre of war. That is hardly an act of unity. Frankly, that is an act of belated hypocrisy.

Mr. MacDonald (Dartmouth): There was a debate taking place, and my hon. colleague full and well knows it. There was a debate taking place in this House about what would be the preferred option if we were in charge in this place—just give me a second, I have listened to you and perhaps you could listen to me.

Let us not try to change the record. The debate was about what we would do. As a party we said that we thought peace should be pursued through the continued enforcement of existing sanctions, that sanctions should have a greater chance to work. We thought that that should have been the role of Canada. We said if that was the role of Canada and if that was the stated policy of the Government of Canada—because that is what the stated

policy would have been if we were the Government of Canada—if hostilities broke out, Canadian forces should move back out of the immediate theatre of war. That is what we said. Don't try to twist our words on this. We lost the debate. Wake up and smell the roses. Last night war started and the Canadian forces are involved in that war. We lost the debate, and whether we like it not Canadian forces are there. The statements that I have made during my speech in response to the other questioners stand, and I will stand on those statements.

• (1210)

Mr. Bill Attewell (Markham—Whitchurch—Stouffville): Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in this Chamber today on the most heart-wrenching issue that has been debated in many decades.

Last evening we heard the tragic news that Iraq has been attacked and war has broken out. Notwithstanding this sad news, I still want to participate in this historic debate, put my views on record and explain why I will, vote in favour of Motion 27 which reads:

That this House reaffirms its support of the United Nations in ending aggression by Iraq against Kuwait.

While I have made up my mind on the motion before this House, I am far from comfortable. As a matter of fact, I am uncomfortable. I am uneasy and I worry about the fact that many thousands of lives will be lost in this war.

I will be voting in favour of the motion before the House, but I would like to say that I reached this conclusion only after a difficult and exhausting thought process of examining all possible options. I have discussed the crisis with many people.

I have spoken with two families in the riding who have sons serving Canada in the Persian Gulf. Dr. Peter and Janet Van Nostrand's son John is serving on the HMCS *Athabaskan*. Mrs. Van Nostrand said that although she would prefer a peaceful solution, she believes the UN resolution must be honoured by Canada. She believes Saddam Hussein must be stopped.

Janet also said that she has a great deal of respect for our service people who have maintained good spirits throughout their ordeal. She also has great respect for