

Therefore, after the Second World War the free world resolved to establish a new organization, the United Nations, which would avoid the errors and the weaknesses of the League of Nations. Canada was a founding member of the United Nations and has always been an enthusiastic supporter member-nation.

Today, in fact, we are a member of the Security Council of that organization. Standing 31st in population among member nations, Canada is fourth in financial contributions to the United Nations' efforts. Canada's support of the United Nations has not stopped there. We proved it in Korea 40 years ago with 26,000 volunteers. We have always been at the forefront of United Nations' efforts at peacekeeping. All Canadians are proud of the fact that Canadian troops won the Nobel Prize for Peace for our efforts and our contributions over the last 45 years.

We are being called upon to support the United Nations by supporting a simple, straightforward resolution, namely, "that this House reaffirms its support of the United Nations in ending the aggression by Iraq against Kuwait".

Five and a half months have passed since Iraq attacked Kuwait. Negotiations, talks, peace missions, diplomacy, economic sanctions, embargoes, and, above all, enduring patience has failed to persuade Saddam Hussein to leave the conquered territory.

The leadership of Iraq has been consistently intransigent and obstinate, despite the fact that most nations of the world are united in condemning their brutal aggression against another sovereign United Nations member-nation.

Twelve resolutions of the United Nations Security Council—several of them drafted and co-sponsored by Canada—have been totally ignored by Iraq. Over 30 nations have provided troops and materiel to enforce these resolutions.

• (1910)

Diplomatic efforts have thus far been unsuccessful and economic sanctions have been endured simply because Hussein has an uncanny ability to pass on their effects to the Iraqi poor, rather than to the political and military leadership of that country.

Government Orders

If a bully nation invades and annexes another sovereign nation and the free world ignores it, then world peace and world order is clearly in peril. Freedom, independence, peace and order become hollow and meaningless words.

Canada and other peaceful nations have much at stake here. The question is, simply put, will world order be sacrificed for political expediency, appeasement and lack of resolve when the going gets tough? I for one do not think it should. I believe the efforts of the United Nations and the 30 nation coalition deserve our unqualified support and the support of the Canadian people.

Canadians are a peace-loving people, respected world-wide simply because we have never been seen as a threat to other nations. Victor Suthren, Director of the Canadian War Museum, aptly described the Canadian psyche when he said:

Canadians have fought as troops of France, of Britain, and finally, of their own nation. They have fought with a ferocious capability that has given them, a markedly unmilitaristic people, a military reputation far more respected than those of many nations who play more dramatically at the parade-ground chauvinism and *machismo* of overt militarism.

Canadians maintain dedicated armed forces of minimal size, and get on with the peace, order and good government of a highly civilized and self-disciplined people. Forced to take up arms, they have done so to put an end to war or fighting. Having matched and beaten armed bullies, they put weapons away with little ostentatious crowing and get on with the nation's life. They do not, ever, (Canadians) play at war, nor do they see the gun as a solution to social injustice or personal failure—

Victor Suthren goes on to say that Canadians are and I quote:

Men and women of a peaceable nature, able to live without war precisely because they can be so fearfully good at it without a shred of romance.

No rational person wants to see war unless every possible effort to preserve peace has been exhausted. At this crucial time in our history it would appear that, barring a miracle, the moment of truth has arrived. This is truly an hour of anxiety for our country and certainly an hour of destiny that we as legislators cannot escape.

It is for the reasons I have stated that I support our government and I support the United Nations. Having little choice but to vote for what could lead to war, I continue to pray for peace.