

risk in the fulfilment of their chosen professional responsibilities. The message quite simply is that we as Canadians are proud of you and are with you all the way.

At least half of those Canadians now serving in the gulf are residents of Nova Scotia. I can say to those courageous and professional Nova Scotians that my party and my government support you all the way. We are proud of the record of performance you have shown during the first five months of this crisis, a record of effectiveness second to none in the gulf.

We know you did not want a war. We know it is a time of fear and challenge for your families, and we know indeed it is a time of fear for you. But we also know the courage and the determination you are demonstrating in carrying out the responsibilities and actions for which you have undergone training, in some cases for as many as 20 or 25 years. We want you to know that Canadians are proud of you. Canadians thank you and your government will stand with you. We ask all Canadians to think of these people and their families and to support them. And we ask the Almighty to make this conflict one that will last no longer than absolutely necessary.

**Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax):** Mr. Speaker, I address my question to the hon. member for South Shore. I listened to a number of members on the government side today talk about the atrocities in Iraq, all of which are deplored by every member of this House.

There is no question that every member of this House deplores the activity of Saddam Hussein, deplores the human rights violations and the unmitigated savagery that has taken place. But some of us who have a very strong feeling that sanctions were not given a chance also have some difficulty with our so-called allies under the United Nations. I do not think anyone in this House would be prepared to say that membership in the United Nations gives a certain cachet that would be in keeping with the beliefs and the standards that most Canadians hold.

I would like to ask the hon. member for South Shore, in his party's delineation of the atrocities perpetrated by the Iraqis if he could tell us about the actions by, for example, President Assad of Syria, our alleged ally in this endeavour.

### *Government Orders*

**Mr. McCreath:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my hon. colleague from Halifax for raising these important questions. She spoke of the atrocities and the fact that all members of this House condemn the atrocities that have been going on in Kuwait and committed by the Iraqis.

She said more time should be allowed for sanctions to work, and that raises certain questions with me. First of all, the longer you wait for sanctions to work, the atrocities continue in Iraq. I believe that those atrocities have gone on long enough and should be stopped.

Second, we have heard evidence presented before this House by the Secretary of State for External Affairs to the effect that there is no evidence whatsoever that sanctions are having any impact on the military capability of Iraq. There is no question. Sanctions are hurting the people of Iraq. There are young people starving. There are old people starving in Iraq. The sanctions are hurting the people of Iraq but they were not negatively impacting the army and that in the final analysis is why it was time to move on to the next step, even though it was not one that people would likely or willingly choose to proceed with.

There is a second question that should be raised about sanctions. From the date that resolution 678 passed the United Nations, a resolution thoroughly supported in the United Nations, it was well known from that day that January 15 was the date upon which either Mr. Hussein would have his forces out of Kuwait or which there would be military action.

There is no question who made the decision. It is great for members opposite to blame the governments of the alliance for the outbreak of hostilities in Iraq, but let us not forget the record is unequivocally clear that the line was drawn and if you start moving the line, you simply allow this man to continue the desolation he was committing to Kuwait and who knows where he was going to go next. My hon. friends suggest we should have given more time for sanctions. Would that not be interesting. The sanctions continue, the war begins.

• (1840)

I would like to hear from them the logic of having Canada continue the sanctions while the other 28 nations go to war. Are they suggesting that Canada is the sole decision-maker in this situation? We are talking, quite frankly, about the fact that several months have passed, several resolutions have passed. The nations of