

Government Orders

We now find ourselves in a position that we are put in, not by the UN, but by the Bush administration. It went out on a limb, so to speak, and now wants the UN and all of us to save it by saying: "Yes, you gambled. You put all those troops in there. Now you don't know what to do with them. And now you want our backing in order to follow through with what you think is the only course of action left to you that will save your face." That is, Mr. Bush's face.

We need to get over this world in which it becomes so easy to caricature nations and leaders according to whether or not they serve our interests. I am tired of a world in which one day somebody is a good guy, the next day he is a bad guy, and the next day he is a good guy again. It all depends on whether or not he is doing what Washington, generally speaking, wants him to do. We need to get over that and we need to do that by demonstrating in this case that we are committed to peaceful solutions to very difficult problems.

With that in mind, I would like to move an amendment to the amendment. There has been a lot of negotiation about this amendment, as you might have guessed, Mr. Speaker, as to what might be regarded as in order, and as to what might not be regarded as in order. Therefore, I move:

That the amendment be amended by deleting all the words after the word "sanctions" and substituting the following:

"such support to exclude the involvement by Canada in a military attack on Iraq or Iraqi forces in Kuwait and to encompass diplomatic initiatives, including settlement of border and other disputes, through UN mediation or the International Court of Justice, the promotion of democratization throughout the region, the establishment of a mechanism to reduce the arms trade and to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, and the convening of an international peace conference to discuss all outstanding Middle East issues.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The Chair will take into consideration the hon. member for Winnipeg Transcona's motion, even though it has some *prima facie* reservations about the acceptability of such a motion. In any event, the Chair will certainly be in a position to

come up with a final ruling about the acceptability of the amendment to the amendment.

Questions and comments. I recognize the hon. member for Portneuf.

Mr. Marc Ferland (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for my colleague from Winnipeg Transcona. He said that Canada should not get involved in any violent action in the Middle East at the present time. I can understand that. He says that on the contrary, we should attempt to negotiate new alternatives to avoid any possible confrontation now that we are at three hours, or rather two hours and half now, from the deadline to see what will happen or what Mr. Hussein might decide at the other end of the phone line.

Nevertheless, I would like my colleague to explain to me why Canada should not participate in such action since, for the last 45 years, we have made every effort to get the two superpowers to recognize that there are, on this place called Earth, middle powers of which Canada, England, France and Australia are part. Those middle powers, now together in the Middle East, are saying to Mr. Hussein that it is time to get with it. We have just ended 45 years of cold war. No more wars. After 167 days, a dozen resolutions from the United Nations and a near refusal to meet with the Secretary General, Perez de Cuellar, we are told again tonight: "Be patient; give sanctions time to have an effect if you want things to come about."

• (2130)

In the meantime, I want to recall to my colleague that people have been suffering steadily for 168 days in the Middle East. And Mr. Hussein doesn't give any sign, none at all, that he intends to go back home and to respect the fundamental international law that we want to enforce as of now.

I would like my colleague to answer the question I just asked him, and to throw some light on the points I raised.

[*English*]

Mr. Blaikie: Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for his question. There are two things I would like to say. He referred to the last 45 years and said that we have just come out of a cold war and really do not appreciate the