

Government Orders

it is a very modest step in the direction of some form of world government order.

The United Nations was founded with great hope and great expectations but has been rather impotent for a long period of time. If that is going to suddenly turn around, and if we are going to have some sort of world order, then we must start acting together. We will have to start working together and start striving to apply the rule of law right across the entire world.

Canadians may not be able to agree on the kind of action that should be taken to preserve peace but I truly believe that Canadians want peace, they do not want war, and that this motion is in keeping with those expectations.

• (2220)

Mrs. Marleau: Mr. Speaker, I have listened with much interest to the intervention of my colleague across the floor, and I would like to make a comment, first of all, on the United Nations.

I would like to remind the people of this august Chamber that the United Nations is not a god. It is a fallible group of people representing different nations who are every bit, as if not more, political than we are, and therefore are very much capable of being influenced by different sectors of the world.

I would venture to say that we as a country,—perhaps not as powerful a country as some—should play a very key role in influencing the resolutions that might be put forward. In other words, much as I appreciate the role of the United Nations and respect its decisions, I think we have a key role to play in the decisions that it is going to take.

That is not giving it a blank cheque and saying: “Whatever you do, we know we will be just fine”. How do we know that? Why are we not standing up and saying: “If we endorse the resolution,”—which they have not passed yet—“we are, in essence, endorsing war”. Do we, as a country, want war? I do not think we do.

We do not like what Saddam Hussein has done. I do not believe that this is the time to be passing a motion endorsing war. I do not believe the people of Canada believe that. I believe that we need more time for sanctions, and the hon. member is right, we must work together, but not by endorsing war, because the cost of war is very great.

I must ask: “What do we as Canadians have to gain from endorsing war at this time?” I suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that we have absolutely nothing to gain right now by endorsing war. We have not given sanctions time to really take effect.

As a matter of fact, we are even now endangering the fate of the hostages that we have in that country. Let’s give it a little bit of time. If we declare war tomorrow, it is not going to be over six months from now. We are going to have tremendous casualties.

I am a mother. I have children who are of age to fight in a war. I do not know that I want to say to my children and to the people in my constituency: “Go out because you are going to defend the country”. Defend it against what? What have we as a country, as Canadians, to gain by endorsing a resolution at the UN or saying to the UN: “We want you to pass this resolution. Whatever resolution you take, we will endorse at this time”.

What have we to gain as a country? What do our children have to gain from this kind of a resolution? I am asking this in all honesty, because I do not believe we have anything to gain. I do not know why Mr. Bush is so anxious to have a war in the gulf because there has been aggression by others. We have not seen the Americans rush in.

Is it because there is oil there? We have oil here. Why are we in such a rush? What do we have to gain? I keep asking. We have everything to lose, and absolutely nothing to gain.

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I do not think anyone would quarrel with the hon. member when she says that no one wants to see war.

In fact, the resolution before the House tonight certainly does not refer to war. I think I had better read it again for the hon. member so she will hear it. It reads as follows:

That this House, noting that the Government of Iraq has not complied with the United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the invasion of Kuwait and the detention of third country nationals, supports the United Nations in its efforts to ensure compliance with the Security Council resolution 660 and subsequent resolutions.

There is nothing in that at all that refers to war.

There is a resolution coming before the United Nations tomorrow. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing in that that refers to war. I will read that for the hon. member as well, particularly paragraph 2, the action paragraph. I hope hon. members will try to keep order