

*Government Orders*

party, my party and the government to put their points forward.

But my God, there is a war on, and there are Canadians serving over there. Perhaps the hon. member could put his name on his caucus speaker's list, but at the current time I am trying to address what he has asked me. I would like to hear from him.

What I have said is clear. I did not have four days to get up and to give all the solutions that I think would help. I will have plenty of time for that. What I tried to do in my remarks was to give a message to the House of Commons. I did not come here to start debating whether or not I think the government has done the right thing. We have already debated that in this House. I brought a message. I would hope that if he did not hear me clearly, he would get the "blues" and read them. That is what we should be here for today—to stand united behind those individuals whom we have sent to the Middle East. I am talking about the Parliament of Canada.

What I did was appeal to this government and members on all sides of this House to find those peaceful solutions. I did not just talk about war. I talked primarily about peace. I talked about peace that probably would be better developed through less partisanship in this House and more co-operation for the sake of world order.

**Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—St. Barbe—Baie Verte):** Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate my colleague for what I thought was an outstanding speech today, a speech that I think sets the tone that all of us would be wise to adopt, given that the eyes and ears of Canadians are on us for as long as this debate continues.

The fact of the matter is that we are beyond a debate about whether or not Canadians ought to be involved in a war. We clearly said they should not be, but we are beyond that. War has begun. Canadian troops are now committed. Whether one agrees or disagrees, there is an action, a war theatre, that exists. I could not concur more with my friend that at this stage no member of Parliament should want to undermine those troops, those young Canadian men and women who have answered the call of their country. I am not suggesting any member of Parliament would want to do this.

As a young lady from St. John's who is in the forces was quoted yesterday, "I signed up. I signed on the dotted line. I am here. I will do my duty". I think we better think about that. I thought the leader of the NDP spoke well yesterday when she said, "no party has a licence on morality".

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Tobin:** No party has a monopoly on morality and no member ought to question the morality—

**An hon. member:** I think somebody did.

**Mr. Tobin:** —or, Madam Speaker, should the intention of any member who speaks in this place from their bones, heart and soul be questioned.

I think the NDP member who just spoke from the province of British Columbia would do well to reflect upon the words of his leader. Then if he needs reinforcement, he should reflect again upon the words of my colleague for Dartmouth who just spoke in this House in an eloquent, responsible and very enlightened manner.

Members should know that this member comes from a constituency together with my colleague from Halifax, where a great many of the people who serve today in the gulf reside. He comes from a constituency where today, together with my colleague from Halifax—and a great many of those are former Newfoundlanders—a great many wives, and in some cases husbands and children, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters are waiting at home, glued to their television sets, not to this debate, but wondering whether or not our troops have been involved in battle, whether or not we have taken casualties, and whether or not their loved ones, God forbid, are involved. If we wrap our minds around that reality in this debate, I think we can erase and flush partisanship from this House. I thank my friend for his remarks.

**Mr. MacDonald (Dartmouth):** I just want to offer a brief closing remark. I have a brother Paul who is a member of the Canadian Armed Forces. He chose that career and he serves proudly. My father served in the Second World War and served proudly, as have other members of my family.

Quite clearly, what we have to understand is that soldiers do not make wars, politicians make wars. Like it or not, we are the politicians in the Canadian Parliament at this point in time, and those men and women who live in my riding are at war. They are serving this country proudly, and I am not for one second—and I could care less if anyone in this House likes it or dislikes it—am not