

*Government Orders*

the Middle East, the injustice which has existed there for so many years.

People have asked for an international peace conference. It should have been convened a long time ago. I would suggest that a solution to the problem will remain quite elusive until such a conference is held. I think that Canada, ever a strong advocate of world peace, has the obligation to show leadership in that endeavour. We are not a nation known for invading other countries. The minister's resolution before us this evening would give free rein to the government to join the war in the Middle East.

I think we must first solve the problem of peace in the Middle East by doing justice to the Palestinian people and also to the Israeli people who must have security and feel quite safe within their own borders. Until we find that solution we will be trying to settle these issues by means which indeed are unacceptable to the world community, and I mean war. I want to commend the hon. member for Lac-Saint-Jean for his remarks.

[English]

**Mr. Robert Wenman (Fraser Valley West):** Mr. Speaker, tonight Canadians are afraid and they are rightfully afraid, of war. I am afraid of war. My local council sent me a telegram advising that "the council opposes Canada's involvement in a possible Middle East war, as further efforts should be made to bring about a peaceful settlement". The council is not in favour of war.

Mr. Eugene Clawson of Matsquie writes: "Please, please, don't let Canada contribute to a war in the Middle East. Death, destruction, and devastation are the results of war. Peace does not come by force. War will result in dying people. Death is humanly permanent. Death hurts, not only the one dying, but the loved one who remains behind. War will result in people being disabled physically, mentally, psychologically. What on earth could make us contribute to such death and destruction, not only to people from other nations whom we do not know, but people we send to the area to actually wreak such havoc. What is worth the loss and maiming of so many lives? Please don't let loss of life be dedicated by artificially set standards and deadlines. Please let Canada and Canadians be emissaries of peace, not perpetrators of death."

Most of the people in my riding do not want war. They want me to tell you that tonight. I am telling you that on behalf of the people I represent. I was impressed, having read the letter of the Prime Minister to the Secretary-General of the United Nations of January 9. The Prime Minister was speaking for all Canadians. He said: "This

is sad news for all of us but we must not give up hope." He concluded by saying: "We should all go the extra mile for peace." The Prime Minister does not want war.

I heard an eloquent speech from the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada who has worked tirelessly for peace. He stood here today and told us: "The Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada does not want war. He wants peace." Every person who has stood in this House of Commons tonight has said: "We don't want war."

The United Nations said it does not want war. Even Saddam Hussein says he does not want war. Yet in less than two hours, we can be going to war. How can you, Madam Speaker, and I, and this government be such terrible failures that we, as politicians of the world, have failed to prevent war. Can the United Nations, which has not been able to bring a just and lasting peace to the Middle East, if we give it a mandate to go to war, bring just and lasting peace to the Middle East through this war? I do not think so.

• (2210)

Last fall we all felt a great euphoria. We felt good because the world was coming together at the United Nations. It was coming together to establish a consensus that could lead to new respect for the rule of law, a new world order and it would find the answer to get Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait. We have never seen the nations of the world come together like that and probably have not had that good feeling since then. These things seemed so positive to us. If the results of the world coming together in a consensus is simply to cause war, is that success or failure? In my eyes, that is not success, that is the failure of the United Nations, as it is our failure.

Since the last great war to end all wars, what a vain and naive hope that man would stop fighting with man, nation with nation, what are the results? We established from those great wars the United Nations, and it is charged with resolving conflict and preventing war. That is what I was taught in school. That is what I believed when I studied the United Nations.

Since the birth of the United Nations it has not found consensus. It has been fight to fight, talk to talk, but very few successes. The Secretary of State for External Affairs said: "Now the United Nations is reborn again because it has consensus". Consensus for what? To fail at imposing sanctions, to fail at diplomacy, and now to find success through force and asking us to mandate them for this force.