

*Government Orders*

• (1830 )

It is important to understand and important to remember that this debate is first and foremost about whether or not Canada is going to stand with the United Nations as it has for 45 years. It is important to understand the powers and the role of the United Nations that were attributed to it by its founders in 1945. The predecessor to the United Nations was the League of Nations, and it failed. In the final analysis it could only tell aggressors what to do. It lacked the power to enforce the decisions that it made.

The founders of the United Nations learned the lesson of the League of Nations and its failure. They learned that there was no point in the new United Nations having rules unless it had the capacity to enforce those rules. They recognized that the role of the United Nations must be to arbitrate, to conciliate, to negotiate and to impose sanctions. In the final analysis, if necessary, if all those previous processes failed to achieve the objective to impose its collective decisions by force and it did, in Korea, some 40 years ago with the full support of Canada.

So it would seem the world and the United Nations have again been faced with an aggressor, an aggressor who will not listen to reason, who scoffs at United Nations resolutions overwhelmingly supported by the countries of the world, who allows sanctions to starve his poor, his people, but not his armies, who arbitrarily and without provocation invades another country, declares it his own, steals from its people, wreaks rape and pillage and murder upon them. In the interest of all that is right, this man must be stopped.

If the United Nations can do no more, then tell him to behave himself or tell the nations of the world to wait until he stops, hoping that sanctions might work, then the United Nations is reduced to ineffectiveness. But the United Nations does have the authority to go the final step and declared, some 50 days ago, that January 15 was the deadline for withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait. Because that withdrawal did not occur on time, there was simply no alternative to the option of force, to remove the Iraqis, free Kuwait and re-establish international order.

If the nations of the United Nations, including Canada, are not prepared to back up the United Nations in action like this, then we ourselves become the destroyers

of the United Nations. Quite frankly, it is as simple as that.

Since the founding of the UN in 1945, no nation has more consistently supported the UN than Canada because Canadians believe in the UN and what it stands for. It is both obvious and appropriate that Canada should stand with the UN on this issue as it has on so many others.

It is interesting to note that 29 countries of the world have not only supported the resolutions of the United Nations concerning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, but have sent forces to the gulf where they are now on active service. The countries represented in the gulf are from all the continents of the world, from varying political persuasions such as Liberal, Democratic and Socialist; countries as varied as the United States and Bangladesh, England, Czechoslovakia, Senegal, Italy, Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, France and of course, Canada. Some have suggested that if the shooting started, Canada should have walked away and withdrawn. Indeed, I had a few phone calls from people in my constituency suggesting this course of action. They stand for peace at any price it would seem.

In 1938 that was called appeasement. Those people's views are sincerely held. Their representations were made to me in a sincere manner. I respect their views, but I believe they are wrong. I believe the majority of Canadians agree with me and will support the position taken by this government on this issue. So long as you give into the bully, you will live at his mercy and be controlled by it. You will no longer be a free person or indeed, a free nation.

To those, including those opposite, who by their posturing and proposals for inaction recommend appeasement, I say you are wrong, as do those Canadian people who remember 1938 and 1939 or who have studied their history or who believe that the United Nations is the best vehicle for the preservation of international peace and security. The rule of law will judge you so and will say that this government, this Prime Minister and the majority in this House have indeed shown leadership and have acted in the best interests, not only of the world but of Canada.

There is a second message that goes out from our support of this resolution today. That is the message to the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces, both those now in the gulf and those who may soon be called upon to go. In so going, they will put their lives at