

Government Orders

change our attitude and call a series of conferences, as if the problems were elsewhere and not in Kuwait”.

The crux of the problem is Kuwait. The country was invaded, and the president of Kuwait must withdraw. There are still a few hours left before the deadline set by the United Nations. After a series of resolutions, I hope that the last-ditch efforts that are being made, with our support, will make the president of Iraq review his position.

As for the cost of maintaining our presence in the gulf, I would say that at the present time, and I had a chance when the Estimates were tabled some time ago, to inform the House that our presence until March had been more or less financed by budgets within the Department of National Defence. There was a potential loss which had not been foreseen, since the crisis was unexpected, of about \$350 million, and at the time I explained how this money would be recovered. For the time being, those are the documents that contain the answer to the hon. member's question.

As for the future, I still hope we will quickly get a peaceful solution in this area. The world needs it, because in any case war is a poor solution. However, it may be the only one when one is dealing with people who make this kind of solution necessary. So I hope we will avoid this war as I said in my speech, and thus avoid the cost that will have an impact in various ways on all Canadians.

[English]

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, if I understood the translation of the hon. member's remarks during the course of his speech—and I apologize for my total lack of facility in French but if the hon. member will bear with me—he said, as translated, that Canada has been up to now passive and detached. He observed that the time was coming when we must intervene. The words “passive and detached” and “intervene” are direct quotes.

This seems to me to crystallize to some degree what has impressed me as a misunderstanding in the House to date in some quarters. Somehow there is the assumption that what is being carried out by Canada—and—other nations in the gulf at the moment is not the use of force.

It should be made very clear that Canada and the other nations active in the gulf at the moment are most definitely engaged in the use of force. What we have not yet resorted to is the use of murder, and what we are debating in the House today is whether or not Canada ought to participate in the use of murder. But let there be no mistake. To date, we have been engaged in the use of force.

The use of force to date in the opinion of many, including former directors of the CIA of the United States, has been effective in crippling Iraqi industrial capacity. In other words, the embargo has been effective, is being effective, and, in fact, is taking increasing effect within Iraq.

It seems to me that the hon. member must be able to say that sanctions are failing if, in humanity, he thereby proposes to proceed to say: “Thus, war is necessary.”

I have a simple question. What evidence, if any, does the member have that he can present in the House that sanctions are failing?

Mr. Loiselle: Mr. Speaker, there is very simple evidence. For sanctions to function they would have to have an effect on Saddam Hussein and I would like the hon. gentleman to indicate to me any small indication that he would be prepared to move. The rest is, in many ways, irrelevant.

We also know that a lot of material is coming into Iraq through Iran. We know that sanctions were used in other countries, one being Rhodesia for a period of 10 years without giving much effect. At the time, the United Nations was weakened because of the cold war. This is something that has to be understood.

For the first time, we can give this international organization a chance to play the role it was built to play, now that it is not crippled any longer by the capacity of the veto by one or the other of the members. An international organization is now in a position to deal with such a problem. That is why the United Nations, through the Security Council, asked the members to adopt a resolution, after the one on the embargo, after coming to the conclusion that some other action was required. Why did it do it? Because it felt that it was not getting anywhere.