

Government Orders

Mussolini from sending troops to support Franco in the overthrow of the lawful government. That made World War II inevitable.

We now have an almost total world-wide agreement on sanctions against Iraq. We have a much stronger organization to guide it than was the old League of Nations. I believe that it is our moral duty to see to it that we make those sanctions and other political means work and make war unnecessary now. The old slogan of "a war to end war" was made out of date by the bombing of Hiroshima.

Mr. Benno Friesen (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have listened with interest and some shock and amazement at what the New Democratic Party is saying here today.

• (1950)

One of the advantages of a debate like this is that people have to stand up and be counted. They have to be counted for some kind of consistency in their policy.

For years, we have listened to members of the New Democratic Party say: "Canada should work with the United Nations. Canada is a part of the United Nations. When we act, we should act in concert with all of the other countries. Canada should not go it alone". Today, we hear the spokesman for the New Democratic Party say: "It is time for the government to act independently of the United Nations". I could not believe what I was hearing. I could not believe it. For all these years we are supposed to work together and now is the time to act independently.

I think the message is clear. It certainly is clear to the House. I am sure it is clear across Canada, and I am sure it is clear among our allies, never count on these people for friends. They say they are friends when the times are good, but when the times are tough, they say: "Please, do not call on us". Then, the time is not now, no. We have to wait a while, you see.

Second, for years we have been listening to these people say: "Help the oppressed. You have got to help the oppressed, those who are hurting". Now, we hear reports about people being killed in Kuwait, hostages in Iraq, women being raped, and children being thrown out of incubators, and these people say: "Oh, the time is not now". No. The Soviets have 3,000 hostages there, the U.S. has so many, Canada has some, but the time is not

now. Presumably, not enough people have died yet. I wonder what it is that makes these people tick. We hear their friends from the Peace Coalition say: "Canada and its leadership are warmongers".

Here is Saddam Hussein, with his tanks poised on the Saudi Arabian border, with a million troops in arms, who has obliterated the boundary of another nation, and Canada is the warmonger? Give me a break. How come the tables have all of a sudden turned?

I know this member believes in peace. Does he believe in peace at the cost of freedom? Which is more important? If he believes in peace more, would he have the freedom to stand here and say what he says today?

Mr. Heap: Mr. Speaker, I wish to correct a misunderstanding in the beginning on the part of the hon. member. As I understand it, what my colleague, the member for Victoria said, was not that Canada should act independently of the United Nations, but independently at the United Nations. I invite my hon. colleague to check that in yesterday's *Hansard*. In other words, independently of the United States, which would be very desirable. I fully stand by that and the NDP always has.

On the second point, about oppression, there are oppressions sometimes where we can do something immediately and there are others where we cannot. When the United States massacred more than 3,000 civilians in Panama, Canada's government did not even attempt to do anything about it. Let us not just talk in a vague generality about oppressors.

Finally, on the question of peace or freedom, I believe freedom is essential to peace and peace is essential to freedom. We do not have any of them perfectly, but I do not believe we are going to make either more peace or more freedom with 500 nuclear bombs in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Joseph Volpe (Eglinton—Lawrence): Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of remarks that my hon. colleague from Trinity-Spadina might comment upon. He has just finished with what I think was a very nice statement, and I want to compliment him on it.

What the government is doing by requesting approval for this motion is, in essence, a whitewash, a blank cheque to go ahead and engage the country in war without coming to Parliament to ask for the opportunity to go in. The parliamentary secretary, who has already indicated that he is unaware of exactly what the ramifica