

Government Orders

having difficulties making sales into those areas and then we lose Iraq. It has a devastating effect. That is why we now have literally thousands of bushels sitting in fields.

It is important for this government when it brings in its agricultural program that there be compensation made with respect to the loss of those sales. It is not the farmers' fault in western Canada that Iraq invaded Kuwait. It is not the farmers' fault that this government is not taking action against the United States for infringing on our traditional sales areas and markets. It is not the farmers' fault and the farmers should not be suffering.

This government should be taking some action, which it has not so far, to rectify that situation and assist farmers and, in doing so, will assist all of rural Canada.

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to rise and say a few words on this motion before the House with respect to the Iraqi situation. It is particularly appropriate as we come up to November 11 and Remembrance Day.

I have been approached by a vast majority of my constituents who are in agreement with the actions of our government and the United Nations acting together. I met with many people from particularly eastern Europe. They have told me in no uncertain terms that we all know the history during the thirties when there were four or five times that Mr. Hitler could have been stopped. At that time other countries were faced with a choice. They could have stopped him or they could not. They lacked the courage or the moral fortitude to stand up and block him the four or five times when they could have. As a result, we got into a world war where 40 million people, at a minimum estimate, lost their lives. How many more tens of millions were injured, wounded, or physically or mentally affected is unknown.

Europe was destroyed as an infrastructure, whether it was roads or buildings or schools, and only recently are they beginning to recover and thrive. More than 40,000 Canadians died. That has had an impact on families and family trees. I know my own family tree in Britain was totally finished. The last Thacker in Britain in our family

tree was lost in Sicily. That has had quite an impact on everybody. You do not forget those things.

It is ironic that just at the time when eastern Europe was coming on side and adopting more approaches that were conciliatory, the United Nations was expanding, the GATT treaty was expanding and human rights were expanding, time when it seemed that we could move on to a new world order with peace and a much more co-operative relationship, we would be faced with Saddam Hussein. He is an individual like Hitler was when he took over a country, who has absolutely no conception of human rights or the feelings of other people. He simply invaded Kuwait, which everyone agrees was a total illegal act by any and all standards.

The bottom line is that our generation is faced with the same choice as our ancestors of two generations ago. We can either stop it now or we can appease or somehow rationalize it in our own minds as none of our affair.

The United Nations has decided that it is our affair and acting together is a good precedent. I hope we will continue to act together and give the Security Council the backing and the support that it needs. That is our hope. We do not have any other models, we have to use the United Nations. It is a wonderful model and the clauses are there. We have to be prepared to act together and I think we will. The fact is that we simply do not have any choice.

Even with conventional weapons we have no choice. We simply cannot afford a world war with conventional weapons. We all know we certainly cannot afford one with nuclear weapons.

I am proud to say, and I am sure I speak for the vast majority of my constituents, that Canada is part of this. Thanks should go to our navy, the men and women on those ships, in the air force and their support staff. We are thinking of them. They have our full support. We worry about them and we want them to come home without any shots being fired and certainly no one being injured or killed. They have our support.

Mr. Marcel Prud'homme (Saint-Denis): I have a short comment, Mr. Speaker. I will be participating in the debate tonight.

I want my colleague to understand that in no way, shape or form do I intend to defend the actions of