

Ms. McLaughlin: The arrogance of being able to say that even I, as a leader of a political party, am always right and my position is always right, in my view, is not leadership. It is dictatorship.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Ms. McLaughlin: If there was ever a more serious moral issue with which we have to deal, I do not know what it could be. It is for that reason that I make that point.

My heart is with all of those Canadian men and women who are now in the Middle East serving our country. My hope is for all of us today who will surely be judged by history on the decision that we take.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: It being past one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until two o'clock this afternoon.

The House took recess at 13.22 p.m.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S. O. 31

[*English*]

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth): Mr. Speaker, today we balance on the brink of war. No doubt every Canadian's thoughts and prayers are riveted on this issue. Later we politicians, with speeches in hand, will debate not UN resolutions, but war.

This is unlike any other debate. It should not be conducted in phrases that make us feel better or less terrified at the task ahead of us, for war is a final act in which a peaceful resolution is abandoned in favour of force, and the death and destruction that it ultimately brings in its pursuit of peace.

As we debate today, remember that participants in war are real. They are not numbers. They are young men and women. They have families, children, mothers, fathers and friends. They have committed themselves to serve their country, and in doing so have also committed their loved ones to the consequences of such service.

The situation in the gulf is not simple. It is real. I hope, and indeed pray, that the gravity of the reality of the choices before us are seen not in a partisan or clinical way, or one that protects us from the anxiety of our own decisions.

The debate today is one that takes into consideration the consequences of our decisions to act or not to act, but to have as our paramount concern those who serve and their families.

Most of all, I pray that all here are granted the wisdom to make the right choice.

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AGRICULTURE

Mr. Geoff Wilson (Swift Current—Maple Creek—Assiniboia): Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Grain Safety Net Committee, consisting of some 34 producer and government representatives which has designed GRIP and NISA programs which target agricultural assistance more effectively, encourage sound management practices, and deliver similar benefits to farmers in all regions.

The Gross Revenue Insurance Plan, GRIP, will offer farmers both yield and price protection while the Net Income Stabilization Account, NISA, will allow farmers to stabilize their incomes on an individual basis.

The Minister of Agriculture will soon introduce these improved programs which will provide a permanent, predictable and truly effective safety net. They are effective because they are based on individual rather than regional conditions, and predictable because support is calculated in the spring. Therefore, farmers will know before seeding the guaranteed revenue per acre for each crop seeded.

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[*Translation*]

GUN CONTROL

Mrs. Pierrette Venne (Saint-Hubert): Mr. Speaker, on December 6, 1989, fourteen families were sorely affected by Marc Lépine's action. The families of the victims from Polytechnique united to turn a personal tragedy into a movement to have the gun control legislation changed.

These parents have grounds for being concerned about the gun control situation in Canada and the proceedings of the committee would have been seriously lacking if it had not heard them.