

As things currently stand, the government along with the people of Canada, as it has from the start, hopes there is a peaceful resolution to this aggression.

Mr. Caccia: Declaring war.

Mr. McKnight: The members talk about declaring war. I have one final point. I suggest to them and to the members in the New Democratic Party that war was declared on August 2 when Iraq invaded Kuwait. The world is now condemning that action and is prepared to legitimize the borders of Kuwait. I ask them to support the government in its efforts.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I have five questioners in 10 minutes. I will start with the hon. member for Winnipeg—St. James, then South West Nova, the hon. member for Portneuf, Davenport and Victoria.

Mr. John Harvard (Winnipeg St. James): Mr. Speaker, all of us want a peaceful solution. There is no doubt about that. However, we have to live with this resolution that is on the floor.

What this resolution demands of us parliamentarians is that we endorse the use of force. That raises the question that I would like to put to the Minister of National Defence. How far do you go with this particular kind of force and to what end?

With respect to the use of force, does the hon. Minister of National Defence tolerate or endorse any kind of force? Is this government in support of wiping out the entire country of Iraq? Is the government prepared to level Baghdad? Is it prepared to wipe out maybe tens of thousands, if not scores of thousands of Iraqis and Kuwaitis? Is that the position of this government? I think it behoves this government to make itself absolutely clear as to how far it is prepared to go with this kind of force. I do not think the government should be asking us to buy some pig in the poke. When you ask us to use force, you better be very explicit how far you are prepared to go.

The other thing is to what end? Is it your end by using force that you are to settle this dispute once and for all? Does this government think for a moment that it can wipe out Hussein who is a despot, a despicable creature? Does it believe that if it wipes out all his generals and armies, that will be the end, there will be nothing more, the disputes will be settled, calm will set in and there will be peace? Or do you think perhaps that that would just simply—

Government Orders

Mr. McKnight: Do you want an answer?

Mr. Harvard: —deliver instability in the region? In fact, maybe the confrontation will actually spread.

It is incumbent upon this minister to come absolutely clean.

Mr. McKnight: If the hon. member's logic matched his rhetoric, I would not stand up and answer the question because it would be very difficult.

The member for Winnipeg—St. James talked about the use of force. I want to read to him the draft of the UN Security Council resolution. Point 2 authorizes member states co-operating with the Government of Kuwait, unless Iraq, on or before January 15, 1991, fully implements, as set forth in paragraph 1 above, the foregoing resolutions: To use all necessary means to uphold and implement Security Council resolution 660, and all subsequent relevant resolutions and to restore international peace and security to the area.

No one wants war. The hon. member throws his hands up and goes like this.

An hon. member: Then start answering.

Mr. McKnight: I ask the members opposite: What is your alternative?

An hon. member: Economic sanctions.

Mr. McKnight: What is your alternative?

Some hon. members: Sanctions.

Mr. McKnight: I hear the bark and the cries of "sanctions, sanctions". I want to ask the hon. members how long we should allow Kuwait—

Mr. Keyes: As long as it takes.

Mr. McKnight: I see. One of the Liberal members says "As long as it takes". Two years? Three years? While Iraq occupies a sovereign nation? What the hon. member is saying is that the use of the United Nations and the original Charter of the United Nations to bring about peace and security in the world—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Order, please. I was very kind with the hon. member. He asked a couple of questions. There are other people here who would like to ask the hon. minister some questions. Would you please allow them to ask and get an answer to their questions. The hon. member for South West Nova.