

Government Orders

and we still firmly believe it—and that bloodshed and force had to be the very last options.

But now a decision has been made and circumstances have overtaken this strange debate and this funny motion or unreal, surreal motion we have before us now. Events have overtaken it. Each and every member of Parliament must support those individuals who have been ordered by the Government of Canada to participate. We must make sure that Canadians in every part of this land do not turn their television sets back over and get disgusted once again and that the level of cynicism, which is probably justified against politicians and parliamentarians right across this country, does not rise.

I for one member of Parliament am probably as partisan as anybody in this House. I know this comes as a great shock to you, Madam Speaker, but I also know there is a time to do one's duty. This is such a time. We can change the opinion Canadians have about this place. We have a real opportunity here to drop those phoney lines of party policy, party ideology, and party names and for once to work in the best interests of Canada and the world.

If we can achieve this, then perhaps we truly have changed something substantial. Perhaps we will start back on the road to making this place a relevant place for debate on behalf of Canadians. We will have all kinds of time for partisanship. We will have all kinds of time to score in Question Period because other issues still go on. Life does move on.

On issues such as this, I urge every one of my colleagues here not to grasp quickly and easily that tool of partisanship we use so effectively and to act truly in the interest of Canadians to find a resolution for this place. Maybe just for once, when we finish in this place, we can all go home and feel we have contributed to the well-being and the development and the future of this country.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Ray Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Madam Speaker, this was an interesting speech. It largely echoes the words of the Prime Minister in attempting to enlist the entire House in the adventure he has laid out for Canadians in the Middle East.

I am surprised that the members would not have taken this opportunity to stand up and say to stop shooting and that this House does not feel there should be one more bullet fired in the Middle East. The objectives of the Americans have largely been achieved. They have smashed the military infrastructure of the Iraqis. Now the program becomes one of butchery. We hear reports of 150,000 casualties. Are we as Canadians going to participate in the butchery? Do you want our CF-18s participating in the same manner?

We do have another option other than the one the Prime Minister has laid out. We cannot join with him. It must stop. He should be standing in this House today calling on the American President to end it, to give the Iraqis a chance to consider the kind of wreckage that been visited on them and to surrender, and to begin to talk about a peace treaty that would see demilitarization and disarmament go on.

The hon. member could have stood in his place today and said that we as Canadians likely have dirty hands in creating that monster. Certainly the French sold them the nuclear reactor that began the task of building atomic bombs for the Iraqis; the West Germans sold them plants to build the chemical weapons that they would have visited on us. The Americans built them up as a weapon against Iran.

• (1200)

The member could have stood up and said that we need a longer term view, that we should stop the war today and be calling out to the American President that enough has been done. The infrastructure is smashed. Give them a chance for peace and negotiate a demilitarization of that region. We do not need to participate in butchery.

If that is the position of the Liberal Party, and that is the position of the Conservative Party, we do in fact divide.

Mr. MacDonald (Dartmouth): Madam Speaker, unfortunately I think that my hon. colleague has shown how easy it is to become too partisan so early in this debate.

Mr. Skelly (North Island—Powell River): End it today.

Mr. MacDonald (Dartmouth): I hope that my colleague has listened to my remarks. There will be plenty of time to debate. There will be plenty of time for your