

Government Orders

If we are here to debate the gulf issue—and it is in fact that important—I would certainly recommend that the NDP reconsider and say: if this that important, let us continue and not just break at midnight.

Mr. Manley: Madam Speaker, I would like to say as an ordinary member of Parliament that I do not know what the House leaders have talked about or what agreements or disagreements have occurred.

I want to speak before the fighting starts. I am prepared, and I dearly hope that opportunity is afforded to me. I will come at midnight. I will come at three in the morning. I will come at five in the morning. But I want to speak about what is in my heart and what my constituents want to hear in the House of Commons before it is too late.

Mr. Angus: Madam Speaker, one of the responsibilities of Whips in all three parties is to determine the amount of time needed for all members to speak. If every member is to be given 10 minutes, we will need at least 60 hours of debating time.

I would like to suggest that part of the reason for negotiations is the fact that we do not want the government to stop debate arbitrarily, whether it is tomorrow or Friday, and move on to government business not having brought the motion to a vote, while at the same time working to ensure that our members, Liberal members, government members, and Independent members of the House have the full opportunity to speak. We do not want to take a chance on the government giving extended hours with unlimited time and having the vote collapse, or arriving tomorrow at Question Period and finding that the government does not bring the motion forward. We want some guarantees that the people of Canada will have the right to hear from every member of Parliament on this issue.

Mr. Nowlan: Madam Speaker, I share the views of my friend from Beaver River. This is a special session called to debate this issue. I have listened to my hon. friend from Thunder Bay—Atikokan. He is a very interesting individual and very ingenious.

I find it passing strange that we are debating such a fundamental issue in such a very serious way. We are going to work the clock, push the clock in at twelve o'clock and then adjourn and come back and back and back, when the people we are talking about who are very involved in this explosive situation are not working any clock.

I find it even more passing strange that the United States had a two-day debate with extended hours. The American senators and congressmen who found time to go until two and three o'clock on at least one night, if not two, all had a chance to speak.

I say to the hon. Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons that I cannot understand why there would be any objection, since we are here on the second day when the Americans who have a heck of a lot more involved in this than we have were able to conclude their debate within two days, and since we do not have the extended hours to go all the way and fit the desires of all members to make sure that we all have a chance to speak, end it, and get the vote over before the whole thing is totally redundant.

[*Translation*]

Madam Deputy Speaker: It seems one thing is quite clear. All members in this House seem to agree that this issue should be debated.

In fact, we are now involved in negotiations which would normally take place behind the curtains.

If I am not mistaken, there seems to be consent, at least for now, for continuing debate until midnight. I suggest that we first accept this motion and members will then have a chance to discuss it. Any additions or other arrangements will be taken care of at that time.

Do I have unanimous consent of the House for extending this sitting until midnight?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: We will therefore proceed with the period for questions and comments following the speech of the Minister of Defence.

• (1750)

[*English*]

Mr. Jim Karygiannis (Scarborough—Agincourt): Madam Speaker, I listened very carefully to the Minister of National Defence.

The Minister of National Defence said: "We seek justice for Kuwait." The minister continued by stating that we cannot continue to let this aggression go unchallenged and by indicating the amount of tanks and the amount of personnel that Saddam Hussein unleashed on Kuwait. The minister kept on reminding the Canadian public what Canada has to do.