

*Government Orders*

important issue for all of us here in the House and for all Canadians.

Back in 1988, when I was asked what were all the issues that I would stand for and represent when I ran for election, this was not one of those issues on which I was asked a lot of questions, nor was it one to which I gave a lot of thought. I do not think that two years ago, if I had been asked what would be my views in such a circumstance, I would have said something to the effect that I would cross that bridge when I came to it and hopefully I would never have to. We all know now that we had to.

Why do we have to make this decision? It is very clear why we have to make this decision. Some 170 days or so ago, a sovereign country, the country of Iraq, decided to invade another sovereign country, the country of Kuwait. A country of 17 million people, with over one million people serving in its armed forces, invaded a country of only 700,000. The war was started by Iraq with its total occupation of Kuwait.

The UN reacted, as it should have. It reacted almost immediately; it demanded an end to the hostilities and the removal from Kuwait of the Iraqi forces. The official hostilities ended not because Iraq left Kuwait but because it had successfully managed to conquer Kuwait and seize it as its 19th province. Sanctions, appropriately, were put in place by the United Nations and almost all commerce with Iraq was stopped. I say almost all, because there is clear evidence that some things were still getting in from Jordan, Iran, or by way of various other border points that may have been available.

It was said sanctions were having an impact, but were they? What were the results? Iraq is still in Kuwait, so obviously sanctions did not stop that from happening. We also know that today the armed forces of Iraq are greater in number than they were 170 days ago. Many reserves were called up to strengthen the very forces that were used to invade Kuwait. In Iraq, if top officials dissented with what Iraq had done, for some unknown reason they were executed.

If we think sanctions are not having an effect in one fashion, as I have just described, I will quote an article from the *Toronto Globe and Mail*. I think the comment is appropriate. It is always interesting for us to hear the

views of many people from other parts of the world. Here is what a Canadian said about the shortage: This article appeared, I believe, on January 11 and read in part:

Contrary to Western belief, the international embargo on Iraq is hitting hard, she said, and is particularly manifested in shortages of milk and medicine. "As always, the pressure is hurting the women and children—not the people it's supposed to hurt."

The person speaking was Maude Barlow, someone whose views I generally have no support for on many of the issues, but that is her view of what is happening in Iraq. I cannot in my conscience accept that that is what we want to achieve with sanctions. I do not believe that our role is denying women and children the necessities of life.

Canada can be proud of its heritage, particularly as it responds to desperate situations around the world. When assistance is needed regardless of where it is needed, Canada has been there in the past. It is there at the present time, and usually where is it? Where brutal dictatorships exist. Look at the countries in Africa where the people are starving. The brutal dictatorships are functioning, and the people are starving. We are there to help the people, not the dictatorships.

It has happened in Africa. It has happened in Asia in the past. It has happened in Central and South America. We can be there, but I cannot support a situation that will only aggravate the circumstances of citizens in Iraq who are innocent probably of the very atrocities their leadership and their military have foisted on the country beside them. Because of a guy like Saddam Hussein, his citizens will suffer, but not just his citizens. The citizens of many countries around the world, the poor nations, the ones who have to import all their energy supplies, the ones who have to import many other factors will be influenced by the lack of stability in the Middle East.

Of course Iraq claims that Kuwait is now a province, its 19th province. We have provinces. I would like to quote the minister of information for Iraq who said: "Kuwait is Iraq's 19th province and not an inch of it can be relinquished". "Everything they think could be used or valuable is taken by the Iraqis," said Abdullah Shayeji of Kuwaiti University's faculty of commerce. Is that how we expect a province to be treated?