

Government Orders

[Translation]

Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly): Madam Speaker, I would like to comment on the speech I just heard.

I agree that the people of Israel have been calm and patient to an admirable degree. In this respect, I share the sentiments of the hon. member for Mount Royal. However, when someone says that Mr. Hussein is his own creation, that Mr. Hussein is a phenomenon, that I cannot accept. Saddam Hussein is a creation of ours, of the United States. We must understand that when you start doing business with dictators because a dictator happens to be the enemy of your enemy, you are playing with fire.

What is particularly disappointing, and I say this as a former military man with a son in the U.S. Navy, is the failure of diplomacy, which obliges our soldiers to go over there to solve the problem we created here in the House and elsewhere.

In concluding, Madam Speaker, I hope we will learn a lesson and the lesson is this: When we support dictators because it suits us, we do so at the expense of the innocent, whether we are talking about Iraqis today or young people, soldiers in the armed forces that have to go over there to correct a problem that we created.

[English]

Mrs. McDougall: Madam Speaker, once again, what I was trying to point out, and I stand by this, was that the situation in that region is a complicated one and I do not think one can say that a regime has been created by another. There were many factors that gave rise to the politics in this region. We, in this country have stood for, and our allies have always stood for, an attempt to find peace in that region.

Occasionally, we take people as we find them. It is not always in our interest to walk away from situations when we do not like what we find. There is no question in my mind that what has happened in Iraq, and the recent history of Iraq, has a lot to do with a single individual and his horrifying ambition, that he was not simply cut out of whole cloth. To suggest that there has been some evil Machiavellian attempt on the part of the United States or our friends and allies I think is to go well beyond the reality of the region, and to insert something into the

discussion which I think may be out of keeping with the atmosphere in which we find ourselves today.

• (1240)

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Madam Speaker, I rise in this House today feeling very nervous about the state that we are in. I must say that before I came to the House, I referred back to a text from Prime Minister Trudeau when he gave a speech on October 27, 1983, at the University of Guelph. The title of the speech was "Reflections on Peace and Security".

He, of course, during the speech went through Canada's history and participation in NATO and its support of the UN. I want to quote the remarks he made early in his speech. "The difficulty all of us experience in trying to know what is going on in the world—to know it and to understand it in a manner that is accurate and that provides the ground for useful action. Too often our knowledge and our judgments are true and false at the same time. This is often the distinctive sign of rapidly changing realities which tend to elude our understanding".

We as Liberals on this side of the House have wanted to come back to this House and talk about this issue for many weeks now for precisely that reason. We have wanted to get accurate information and try to understand exactly, to the best of all members' ability, what is happening.

For the last two years the thought processes of members in this House have been working on a new world order where war was just totally out of our minds in terms of a real possibility. I think I can best describe it by referring to some comments I made last year at this very time when I was in Moscow. I was so proud to be speaking on behalf of the government at a Soviet-U.S. Citizens Summit on the environment.

I could not get over the feeling that I had that there we were, all working together, exchanging ideas, and our whole thrust was not measuring our strength as nations by the money we had or the armaments we were building up, but that we were measuring our strength by the mouths we could feed and the environment that we were all trying to protect.

For all of us in the House, our systems, our thought processes, have been working along these lines for the last couple of years. Now, all of a sudden, to be involved