

potential war zone under a Canadian flag, he did not call back the House.

Other governments called back their parliaments. They certainly did in Britain. The absence of such action shows this government's lack of respect for democracy.

This has to be taken in the context of the attitude that Canadians have today toward parliamentarians right across this country. People are questioning parliamentarians and their actions, certainly the actions in the Senate with the banging of chairs and the blowing of kazoos.

This government's use of time allocation and closure, time after time after time, have made people become disillusioned with this institution of Parliament. We have a motion that the government wants to limit committee size because it feels that committees in this House on occasion are disagreeing with the government. It is an infringement of an MP's right to properly perform his duty. This is simply one more example of that. It is one more example of this government failing to respect the democratic institutions of this country and causing this institution to be held in less regard by the people in this nation.

What is required in this situation? We must make the role of the United Nations in the world a priority. As such, Canada should be taking a leading role as a member of the Security Council to ensure, first of all, that the UN takes charge of military operations over in the Middle East. As well, we should declare that our ships will only go as far as originally planned, and that is to the Gulf of Oman, and strictly for the purpose of helping to enforce the UN sanctions against Iraq under Resolution 665. That and no more, Mr. Speaker.

As well, Canada should be focusing more attention on the problem of the refugee situation. Thousands of refugees from numerous nations have been fleeing Kuwait and that region of the world. As is often the case with refugees, they become almost invisible. People tend to forget about them. They get quick exposure on the media and then they are forgotten. Although the government has committed some funds, which is very laudable, there should be a stronger commitment than that. Canada should be committing itself to spending more

attention and energy with respect to the refugee problem.

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In conclusion, I would simply like to say that I was very disappointed in the actions which the government had taken. It certainly had a bad reflection on the United Nations. It has also had a very bad reflection on the way Canadians view this Parliament. It has shown a disregard for democracy in this country.

With those remarks, I would close by saying that I will certainly be supporting my party's amendment and opposing the government's resolution.

**Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway):** Mr. Speaker, I will be brief.

I congratulate the hon. member on an excellent speech. I just want to take this opportunity to ask the hon. member, who is well known not only in Saskatchewan but throughout this country as a tireless defender of farmers, if he could elaborate on the implications of this serious crisis for grain farmers in particular.

What impact will this have on western farmers? I know that Canadians will await with interest the comments and the assistance of the hon. member on this important question.

**Mr. Laporte:** Mr. Speaker, we have in this country today a rural infrastructure that is in real danger. It has been shrinking for a number of years and now it is simply beginning to collapse.

One of the reasons it is collapsing is the economic base, whether it be fishing in Nova Scotia, growing apples in the Annapolis Valley, or growing grain in western Canada. This government has failed to address the agricultural issue properly in the last number of years. Certainly since it has taken power it has been promising to bring in an agricultural program since 1985.

With respect to this situation, Iraq was our fourth largest customer with respect to grain. It is certainly an important customer. The loss of Iraq is simply adding to the difficulties that exist today. We have in Canada a problem with grain sales. One of the main reasons is that we have the United States which, through its Export Enhancement Program, is infringing on our traditional territory certainly in the U.S.S.R. and in Africa. We are