

left in terms of the individual people? I am not concerned about Mr. Hussein, but I am certainly concerned about the men and women who live there.

Mr. Hicks: Madam Speaker, I thank the hon. member for her comments and her questions. As I said, we all want the same thing. We are going about it in different ways.

The question she just posed was whether it would be better for us to seek peace with Saddam Hussein. Who phoned Saddam Hussein the day before the attack? President Bush spoke to him personally, according to reports in the press yesterday. He phoned in a last-ditch attempt to plead with him to attempt to come to a peaceful solution. I think we all want peace, and I think everyone has done everything possible. She talks about—

Madam Deputy Speaker: Unfortunately I will have to interrupt the hon. member, as the period for questions and comments has now expired.

[*Translation*]

At this time, pursuant to Standing Order 38, I might advise the House about the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment: the hon. member for Winnipeg Transcona—Lithuania; the hon. member for Winnipeg—St. James—Justice; and the hon. member for Hamilton East—Energy.

[*English*]

Resuming debate, the hon. member for Victoria.

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Madam Speaker, before I get to the main burden of my remarks, I would just like to take this opportunity to set the record straight in respect of the views and contribution of one of the most respected members ever to have served in this Parliament, the Hon. Stanley Knowles who presently serves as an honorary officer of this House, regarding the issue.

The Prime Minister seems incapable of avoiding partisanship, even at these moments. In his effort the other day to try to bolster his case he quoted first from past Liberal Prime Ministers in order to suggest that they would have supported the government's policy in this respect. Then he went on to quote Mr. Knowles from June 1950. He said, among other things of Mr. Knowles' views, the following, as reported at page 16990 of *Hansard*:

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Mr. Knowles went on to say that "the government has the concurrence of all of the groups in this House in its readiness to support the action", the military action as it then was, "taken by the United Nations. That is clearly our obligation and that way alone lies hope".

Then he proceeded to quote Mr. Knowles further from June 1950 and his comments in respect of the Korean crisis.

The clear implication of the Prime Minister's statement is that Mr. Knowles and the CCF at that point supported the military action and would have supported the military action today.

He added words in the course of his statement that Mr. Knowles never used, namely the words "the military action as it then was". I say that is a mark of complete disrespect to Mr. Knowles. I think the Prime Minister owes Mr. Knowles and this House an apology.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Brewin: I should say that through a family connection Mr. Knowles is quite close to me personally. In fact he married my wife and myself in his capacity as a clergyman. I feel very close to him. He phoned me the other day and commented on this issue. He asked me to convey to our caucus and to the House his deep feeling that this war in the gulf was wrong and that this House should oppose the war.

The Prime Minister compounded his error not only by misquoting Mr. Knowles in 1950 but using Mr. Knowles, who is not able to speak for himself in this House, to buttress his argument when in fact Mr. Knowles continues to be a passionate spokesperson for peace.

I rise to put our party's position on the floor of this House today, the first day after hostilities have finally broken out in the gulf. My feeling last night—and I am sure it is shared by all Canadians and I know by all members of this House—was that somehow we had failed, that war is failure. This war, in particular coming as it does at the end of a century that has seen the most devastating wars in the history of humanity, is a war that simply should not have happened. This war is a terrible, serious and tragic mistake.

Mr. Crosbie: Speak to Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Brewin: The Minister for International Trade rises and says: "Speak to Saddam Hussein". Whatever one's views as to how we got here and how we are getting out