

*Government Orders*

We, who are in this Chamber, make the decision to send our young women and men into combat. It is important that we exhaust all other avenues before we even contemplate taking that decision. I am of the opinion that it is better for us to negotiate for as long as we can. No, not from our knees, Mr. Speaker, but from a position of strength, that is to say the strength that comes from knowing that what we are doing is right. We must negotiate from a position, also, of knowing that by speaking now, we may avert war. We know that war, if it does come, is going to finish some time. Once again, we must go back to the table and speak, either with our defeated enemies or at least our wounded enemies.

The hon. member mentioned Kuwait, which is the country Iraq attacked. I wonder if my hon. colleague would address herself to the fact that Kuwait, after all, is not a democracy as we know it. My understanding is that the rulers of Kuwait leave a great deal to be desired in the field of human rights. I would like the hon. member to give us her opinion as to why, exactly, we are going to fight there. If it is to free the Kuwaitis, what are we going to replace it with or is it a fact, very simply, that we are fighting for oil rather than principles?

• (1810)

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Marie Gibeau (Bourassa):** Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for his questions. I may remind him of the Latin saying: "If you want peace, prepare for war". I did not say wage war.

There are two comments I would like to make. First of all, I would like to remind hon. members that our government is not, to use the English expression, trigger happy. This summer we had the so-called native crisis. There might have been casualties, but for the exceptional restraint and dignity of our military forces in the face of all kinds of provocation. I think that what happened this summer, considering that it was very close to home and very violent, offers ample proof of the fact that our Canadian forces and our government are not trigger happy.

My second comment, Mr. Speaker, is that last week I had the privilege of being in Rome and discussing this matter with Italian parliamentarians who had been talking to some of their counterparts from other European countries. During those discussions, I had the distinct impression that Canada, through our Secretary of State and our Prime Minister, helped to moderate the urges and sentiments of certain other countries that were eager to start a war immediately, a war they felt could be over very quickly.

I also had the distinct impression that our leaders were determined to make use of all diplomatic resources, all peace mechanisms, negotiations and discussions. As you mentioned earlier, it was certainly not a matter of rushing in and acting like medieval knights on a quest, entirely oblivious of what was involved, not just at the geopolitical level, but also as far as the lives of our Canadians were concerned. I am going to say something terrible, but I am sure that the first Canadian corpse to come back would be a nightmare for each and everyone of us.

**Mr. Duceppe:** We do not have a quorum, Mr. Speaker!

[*English*]

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Just a minute, let us see.

*And the count having been taken:*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** Yes, there is a quorum. Where did the hon. member for Laurier—Sainte-Marie go?

**Mr. Gauthier:** He disappears.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** The hon. member for Bourassa has the floor.

[*Translation*]

**Mrs. Gibeau:** Mr. Speaker, I think a comment is in order. I deplore the fact that members of one of the parties in this House should find it necessary to indulge in such childish stratagems while we are discussing this dramatic situation. I find it very upsetting that junior members of this House should show an utter lack of respect for the House during a debate of this kind.