

Government Orders

When my hon. colleague from British Columbia says that war is a defeat and that war is a failure, she is right. Can you imagine, Madam Speaker, a greater failure on the part of political leaders around the world when they say we have failed to resolve an issue. We have failed to remove that brute Saddam Hussein and now we must turn to the young men and women of the worlds to sacrifice their lives so that they can succeed where we failed? That is the message from the political leaders of the world. We have failed and now young people must spill their blood. I take that very hard.

It is not only we adults and parliamentarians who realize the horrors of war. Just the other day I got a batch of letters from a Sunday school class, grades four and five of Sturgeon Creek United Church in my riding. Do you want to hear what they say, Madam Speaker? These are young children. "I do not want a war because people die." "I do not want war because it kills people." "If it would stop hurting people by war, I would say I would be very happy."

We are dealing with a great issue. I think that we, as parliamentarians, particularly in the opposition—and I respect the decision of the government—have an opportunity and a responsibility to provide an alternative. The alternative to war, in my opinion, is to continue with sanctions.

• (1820)

Why does my hon. friend from British Columbia think they gave up on sanctions? There is ample evidence that they were working, if they were only given time.

Ms. Black: I would like to thank my colleague from Manitoba for his question and his comments.

As to why they gave up on sanctions, it was a mindset from the beginning to go to war. It is very clear now.

I want to read into the record comments that were made in the House of Commons on September 8, 1939. That was a very significant date in Canadian history. It is a comment made by the founder of the CCF, the predecessor of the NDP, Mr. Woodsworth. He said:

While we are urged to fight for freedom and democracy, it should be remembered that war is the very negation of both. The victor may win; but if he does, it is by adopting the self-same tactics which he condemns in his enemy.

I think those words are as relevant today as they were in September of 1939.

Mr. Murray W. Dorin (Edmonton Northwest): Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the hon. member a question. Before I do, I would like to quote from a couple of articles which appeared a week or two ago in newspapers.

An article in *The Globe and Mail* of December 19 states: "—forms of torture and abuse, including beatings with canes, metal rods, whips, hoses and other implements, breaking arms, legs or ribs, extracting finger and toe-nails, cutting off tongues and ears, gouging out eyes, castration, and the rape of women and young men. I know definitely about a young Kuwaiti friend who was taken out of the family home at night. Then the family was taken out of the house and forced to stand there while brothers and cousins were shot."

One of the things that bothers me about the sanctimonious speeches we are hearing from that member and her party is the suggestion that there was no aggression and that by waiting there was no price.

How long was the hon. member prepared to wait? If she wanted to suggest that there should be no aggression, I would like her to respond to these reports because, while they may be to some degree unconfirmed, we know there was aggression going on. We know that Saddam Hussein, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs indicated yesterday, was making further preparations for war. How long was the hon. member prepared to wait and see these things go on? Was she prepared to wait forever?

Ms. Black: Madam Speaker, I do not believe that my speech was sanctimonious at all and I take great offence at that comment.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Ms. Black: I spoke from my heart and I spoke to my beliefs. It was not sanctimonious.

I would ask the hon. member, if he speaks for the government, if 350,000 have been killed in the space of 24 hours, how long will this madness go on? We must find a solution to the madness of war.

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Madam Speaker, I would just like to make a comment on the hon.