

*Government Orders*

countries such as Iran and others in the area are potentially attracted toward invading that country. If that were to happen, of course the same process might happen all over again. How unfortunate that would be.

Those who are charged with fighting the war in Iraq should remember that as part of their military strategy, because the devastation will result from that. I suppose that is part of war, regrettably. They should remember that if the devastation is to such an extent that virtually nothing can be salvaged, it might encourage less stability in the area rather than more.

**Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal):** Madam Speaker, I wonder what the member's feeling is on a related subject.

I just received a call from *Canadian Press*. The parliamentary secretary, if he still holds that position, might also be interested in this. A ban was placed as of an hour ago on all Canadian reporters in the area with respect to speaking to any soldiers, airmen or navy personnel aboard the ships or in Qatar. I wonder what his reaction is to this ban with respect to freedom of the press.

I have also received another call with respect to coverage of French language television. The reporters are there, but the camera crews are not there on the French CBC side, Radio-Canada.

[*Translation*]

So there is some concern about the potential of camera crews on the French side and the freedom of speech of reporters. Would you care to comment?

[*English*]

**Mr. Boudria:** Madam Speaker, the great concern—and I am sure it is a concern that will be shared across the way as well—is that there is a tendency in war to embellish the result that one wants, shall I dare use the word, to propagate. The obvious concern is that people could then put what is known as the spin that they like on the news. In other words, they could orchestrate the news in such a way as to give the appearance that they want, rather than informing the people about what is actually happening.

There is another concern that I have. It is in relation to the United States way of doing things. I do not criticize

the United States in regard. It has its own way of doing things; it is just not my way. The United States military generally operates in that kind of fashion, which is the one my colleague from Mount Royal has just described. I am concerned about the following two possible scenarios and I hope that someone on the government side is able to react to them. I am wondering if the United States military is now controlling Canadian access to information in regard to this war or, alternatively, have we as a country adopted its way of controlling access to information? Which is it?

• (1730)

I am reminded by my hon. colleague from Mount Royal that it has been said many times that the first casualty of war is truth. No doubt if there is that kind of control on the media, that casualty will definitely be first again.

**Mr. Ken James (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Labour and Minister of State (Transport)):** Madam Speaker, as many know, I have been anxious to return to the House of Commons to receive the most up-to-date information, to discuss, and to speak on the involvement of Canada and Canadians in the gulf conflict.

The war started before I was able to speak today, but I have listened to the most up-to-date information and certainly I have listened to a lot of discussion that has taken place in the last few days.

I am still pleased to be able to speak publicly and have the opportunity to do so about national interests, international law and security, and political and economic stability, as well as the fate of our international order.

For my part this is a very difficult, momentous and personally concerning consideration. Supporting the government motion is a vote of reaffirmation of Canada's vote in favour of 12 United Nations resolutions, ending with Resolution 678 that set the deadline of January 15 to use all necessary means to uphold all the prior UN resolutions.

Essentially the issue that is before us is what are we doing about Saddam Hussein and his troops, and what are we doing, how are we doing and how are we feeling about getting him out of Kuwait.