

*Government Orders*

about environmental warfare. That apparently is what we are in. Iraq has proclaimed that it will destroy the Kuwaiti oilfields if attacked. Kuwait has over an estimated over 1,000 oil wells. I think I should be permitted an emotional digression here.

The International Council of Scientific Unions and other scientists estimate that 10 million barrels of oil a day could burn if Iraq carries through on its threat. Smoke produced from burning those oil wells could change global temperatures by several degrees, disrupt African and Asian monsoons, and devastate world harvests. Smoke would result in local and regionalized ozone holes. Temperatures in the area of burning wells could reach 160 degrees where human beings are, while temperatures underneath the massive smoke soot layers could plummet 68 degrees.

This is environmental warfare and we are part of it if this government goes ahead. Again I urge government members to remember Canada's role in history, to remember our peacekeeping and peacemaking role, and that we are the ones who act between combatants and we have done it with distinction.

Global warming could be accelerated by 30 years. This is not going to be a quick, surgical strike. Oh, no, what is going to happen is going to devastate our world environmentally.

A year long oilfield conflagration is quite possible because the oil wells in Kuwait pump up the oil automatically. They do not need a pump, so once they start burning we cannot put them out.

The onset, duration, intensity, and character of the monsoons in Asia will be affected. Failure of the monsoons could impact over one billion people. Those people depend on those rains for crops and for water. Even a partial monsoon failure would cause more deaths than the total populations of Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia combined.

That is what we are into. That is the madness that we have embarked upon.

I know a lot has been said about the evil nature of Saddam Hussein. I think most of us in this House would absolutely agree. But, make no mistake: we are not doing a nice, quick, surgical strike against Saddam Hussein. We are going against a population. Some 45 per cent of the population of Iraq and Kuwait is made up of people

under the age of 15; children, Mr. Speaker. Those are the people those bombs are raining down on now; children.

I am not naive about war. I have seen it. I am one of the few members of Parliament who has seen it. I have been part of it in Africa when I was working for Oxfam Canada, so war is not an abstract thing to me. It is very real. Being part of a war is not like watching it on television, in movies like *Apocalypse Now* or *Born on the 4th of July*, although those were hard-hitting and certainly brought forth very real emotions. When it is actually yourself in a bunker with the ground shaking and shells going off around you, it is real, it is not a movie. I have experienced that. I wish that more members of Parliament had, because I do not think they would go for any part of war if they had actually experienced it.

This is an historic day in the House. I urge government members again to please reconsider. Look into your souls and see if you want this on your conscience, for Canada to be part of this conflagration that we have begun tonight.

What we are contemplating here is not abstract. We have to realize that the environmental consequences of this war are extensive, the global warming is probably just the most benign consequence, that just the U.S. forces alone have over 1,000 nuclear warheads in the Persian Gulf. What happens if any of those nuclear warheads are hit even by accident? Do the so-called experts know what happens if the Iraqi nuclear generating station is hit? Do the experts know that? This again is not going to be a limited war. How can we be so sure that it will be a quick, sharp strike and then we will get rid of this brutal dictator? There are other brutal dictators in this world. I wonder why we have not focused our attentions on them before now. I think Canadians who are watching here tonight know darn well why, because it was not in the economic interests of the United States up to now. This is apparent.

This is why I go back to how I started my comments. It brings questions to my mind about the very perversity of human nature. How can we secure international peace and security by making war? It is obscene.

I will conclude my remarks by once again urging government members to look into their souls and consciences, to look into their pride of country. The historic development of Canada has been one of pride in being there between the combatants and to contribute to peace