

Government Orders

Outside that region where the volatility is most acute, devastation and deprivation would continue and would accelerate if the world delayed. I am not talking about developed countries like Canada, comfortable countries like ours. I am talking about developing countries whose very existence as functioning societies is at stake. Terrible poverty is being made more and more unbearable. Governments in Africa are going broke and lurching toward disintegration.

When the Prime Minister met with leaders of the front-line states from Africa at the Children's Summit, the irony they were facing is that they had come to that conference to dedicate themselves to extra efforts to help their children, and the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq made it impossible not only to turn new moneys there but to keep old moneys there. Those are among the victims of the *status quo* which some would have us wait and extend.

Inflation rates in some of those developing countries are doubling and tripling. Deficits are ballooning. Basic human needs are not being met. Governments in Africa have asked Canada if they can convert money meant for education to funds to buy basic goods. Their development as societies is in jeopardy, as are so many of the international development programs that we have put in place and are so actively supported by members of this House and the non-governmental community across the country.

These are related problems and we should not blind our eye to one because we are concerned about the consequences of the solution to another.

• (1550)

In eastern Europe, the dramatic escalation in oil prices has become the singular reason why the progress they have made thus far and the progress that must be made in the future is in jeopardy. Finance Minister Klaus of Czechoslovakia told me in November that this crisis had gutted their economic reform plan and cost his country billions. Saddam Hussein does not simply destabilize the gulf. He destabilizes eastern Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Rather than delay, some people say deal.

An hon. member: There is more oil.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Yes, there is more oil. People are saying there is more oil, but as know what is happening with spot prices. We know what is happening with the cost of oil.

An hon. member: They are going down.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): No, they are not going down. They are going up to a lot of the countries we are talking about. What is also going up is the incidence of people who come home, people who used to be working in the gulf and sending money back to help sustain economies in Bangladesh and elsewhere, and that is no longer happening. That is one of several consequences.

Rather than delay, some say deal. Let Saddam claim other victories to justify his aggression. But that, Sir, would be a reward for aggression, an invitation to other conflicts and other tyrants. It would be absurd to give a bank robber the money he had stolen or to take that money back and give him gold instead. Law and order would crumble if societies worked that way. It is no different internationally.

At this very moment plans proposed by France and others, as the House knows, are being discussed in New York. There are more active discussions since questions were raised an hour ago. Although there are important details to clarify, those plans have some very positive elements. As I have said and as the Prime Minister has said, they are similar to a proposal put forward in the letter that has been tabled in this House.

Our proposal contained the following elements, as the House will read: first, an international guarantee of all borders in the gulf area from attack; second, the initiation of a process to settle Iraq's differences with Kuwait, either through existing international agencies or through something created for the purposes; third, the departure from Saudi Arabia of all forces from outside the region and the creation of a peacekeeping force drawn primarily from the Arab states but with the participation of others if that were deemed desirable; and, fourth, a firm commitment in principle to a process to resolve other issues in the Middle East.