

*Government Orders*

One year ago in this House we all celebrated the breakdown of the Berlin wall. What an exciting moment that was for us as Canadians as well as members of Parliament, to celebrate that freedom. No sooner do we turn around than we are facing another enemy in a different place. The people of Kuwait, the people of Iraq, in fact those forces that are now participating in the gulf are going to pay a cost, and I have to ask myself the question: Will it be worth it? Can we let these people go on unchecked? Earlier I mentioned briefly about the human condition. I think that analogy shows us it is, very difficult to assume that the world will get along as friends forever. Let us work toward world peace. Let us work together as global citizens to try to achieve those ends.

My final comment is to the people in this House whom I have come to respect as colleagues and many as friends. I am in a particularly unique position in this House because I sit independently as the only member of the Reform Party. As I alluded to earlier, we are Canadian citizens and we must band together as members of a country that is part of the UN. As hon. members speak tonight, I would encourage each and every one of them to be as non-partisan as possible and to remember the fact that we are not just facing each other on opposite sides of an aisle. We have a responsibility to our country and whether we like it or not that is our responsibility. No matter what position each of us takes, personally and politically, let us rise above that and be considered to be that nation which is peace loving and peacekeeping.

I would hope and pray for the safe return of all Canadian and UN forces and for a quick resolution of this situation. I would ask each and every one of us to search our hearts tonight, to respect each other, to respect all Canadian citizens and certainly the UN and to be very grateful for what the UN has stood for. I hope that we would support what is happening now and pray that we would have a speedy resolution to this, and that we will be able to look at and learn from the lessons this painful war has taught.

**Mr. Ron MacDonald (Dartmouth):** Mr. Speaker, this is truly a sombre moment in the highest court in the land, the Parliament of Canada. I have listened with a great

deal of interest to the eloquence of my colleague, the hon. member for Beaver River. I commend her on her comments about the members of the Canadian Armed Forces who serve so proudly from her riding.

I think it is important at this point in time that all members in this place, and Canadians who must feel somewhat apprehensive as they watch what is unfolding, remember something. I want them to remember the tens of thousands of men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces who have served this country so proudly in times of peace and now in what appears to be a time of war.

I am very lucky because I probably have one of the largest military constituencies in the country. We have a strong naval tradition in the riding of Dartmouth. I know the type of anxiety that has been felt up to this point by the families, the children, the friends and the neighbours of those men and women who are serving in the Canadian Armed Forces in the Persian Gulf. I cannot imagine that emotion that they are feeling right now, the feeling of helplessness, as they wait to see what is happening to their loved ones.

I think if there is anything important for Canadians who are watching now it is to remember, especially in my riding of Dartmouth. I hope that there are a lot watching. Look down your street and you are going to find a family of one of those people because there are about 600 of them. Look around your neighbourhood and offer support and compassion to those men and women and their families because they desperately need it tonight.

I am going to be selfish, Mr. Speaker. To my constituents in the riding of Dartmouth who believe very strongly in the role of the Canadian military in our riding, in our economy and in our country—and it is the same for the member for Beaver River—I urge those Canadians in this time of uncertainty, fear and anguish to reach out and to touch those families and to tell them, as best you can, that you care and that you understand what they are going through. But, most of all, give your support because the members of the Canadian Armed Forces are doing a great job for the people of Canada. The least we can do at this time of uncertainty is to give them the support that they deserve.