

Government Orders

I understand the people who are demonstrating across Canada the young and, the not so young, people who are worried, who are against war and who came here in the visitors' gallery today to show us they were against war, who were walking up and down with signs that stated: No blood for oil. That's fine. Except that when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, his troops killed babies in their incubators, not breaking open barrels of oil. The women who were raped, were not barrels of oil. The men who were hanged, the hundreds of thousands of people who were herded into the desert, without water and without food, were not barrels of oil but human beings. Is Canada going to sit on its hands? Are we going to do nothing?

Is Canada going to say: Keep up the good work, Mr. Hussein? We have done everything possible and imaginable in the way of diplomatic approaches. We tried to impress him by moving in a huge multinational force something unheard of in the modern history of this planet. He did not budge. It is like talking to a wall. No reaction. The most respected man on this planet, Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the servant of the UN, a born peacemaker who has been working hard all his life to pacify this planet was kept waiting. He kept him waiting in the hall as if he were a beggar. Is that the kind of respect he shows for the UN? How can we hope to convince him? I say there may yet be a possibility to be convinced. We have half an hour left, and I think there are three hours left until midnight in the Pacific, so we may still have three hours left until the deadline.

Maybe we will manage to convince him, maybe at the last minute he will be touched by the Holy Spirit who will wake him up and say: "Saddam, you've got to get out. If you don't, you will be responsible for the largest cataclysm ever to happen on earth." I do not despair. I feel I do not have the right, as a representative of this country, as a member of this House elected by people I love, some of whom are presently in the gulf and whose relatives worry and call me. I understand their feelings and tell them that their sons or daughters have made a choice. I never wished that our military personnel be placed in such a situation, but when I met with them, they told me: "Mr. Ferland, don't worry about us, it's our job. We are going to do what we were trained for, but it

does not mean we like it and are not scared. We too feel the pain, but we will do our job because world security is what we are here for. We will see to it that the UN commitments are respected and we will make sure that Canada is ably represented in the gulf, that the work to be done will be carried out as expertly as we know how, in a professional manner."

• (2330)

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, let me say that this was not an easy decision to make, and I did make a decision. It was not easy to make, but I will stand to vote. When the question is put I will vote for the resolution because I think that Canada has to support the United Nations resolution and continue the work that has been accomplished over the past 45 years. Canada is morally bound to be logical with itself and, if need be, to take action.

I am still hopeful, Madam Speaker, that God will inspire Mr. Hussein in the next few hours and make him understand that he must get out of that country.

[*English*]

Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East): Madam Speaker, I have a very brief question for the hon. member. Of the 31 UN member states currently engaged to some degree of other in the imposition of the economic sanctions against Iraq, can the hon. member identify 10 that have betokened their intention to join the United States in offensive action against Iraq, if necessary?

[*Translation*]

Mr. Marc Ferland (Portneuf): Madam Speaker, I do not have to identify 10 states for the simple and good reason that I do not have to decide for the other States which are currently involved in the Gulf. The issue which is raised here tonight is to know whether or not Canada must fulfil its commitment with the UN. It must stick to its commitments and yes, Canada must carry them out fully.

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary North East): Madam Speaker, I was very much interested in the remarks the hon. member has made. He dealt with justice and international law, as well as the fact that Canada must follow the directions of the United Nations, or rather the United States.