

Government Orders

between us all? Hopefully, we can attain that. That should be the mandate of the United Nations and of this Parliament.

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary Northeast): Madam Speaker, I commend the hon. member for Fraser Valley West for his excellent speech. He touched the essence of the problem. People today believe that we can find a solution that would be peaceful. We do not have to go to war to find a solution in the Middle East.

For many years there was a proposal to have an international peace conference on the Middle East and some of the nations of the United Nations objected to it. They did not want to accept it. As long as there is not a global solution in the Middle East, I think we will have a powder keg there and war could break out at any time.

I hope that Canada, as a peace loving, nation, will show the world the way as we have done in the past by being peacekeepers instead of initiating war. I hope that some of the government members will vote against the resolution of the government because it is a ticket that allows the government to send our troops into war. I do not think we have exhausted all the possibilities there for peace.

Three weeks ago I was in Washington. I talked to a senator who told me that there are indications that sanctions are working, that Iraq's gross national product has been reduced by 40 per cent. It means that it would be difficult for Iraq to go to war in maybe six months. Let us wait and let the sanctions work. I think they are working.

We need to have an international peace conference on the Middle East at the same time to resolve the problems as they present themselves. I would like to ask the hon. member whether he would agree that there should be an international peace conference on the Middle East once there is an indication of withdrawal from Kuwait by the Iraqis.

Mr. Wenman: Madam Speaker, two questions were posed, the first one on the issue of the vote itself. In the last vote I abstained. I have not yet decided what I will do on the next vote because I believe in the spirit of democracy and parliamentary debate that has brought us here today. I have listened to the partisan and non-partisan speakers. From that I am drawing a conclusion. I think that is what is supposed to happen here. I hope that

I did not come here, predetermined, my mind made up and that was all there was to it. Yes, I have an open mind and have not decided what I will do in that case.

I had some hope when the leader of the NDP call for a free vote. She said in her own group there were those who were dissident, who did not agree with her view. I asked who in the NDP will vote with the government. Well, nobody. So the NDP will pass a party vote. I expect the Liberals will pass a party vote, and the Conservatives will pass a party vote, and I am sorry about that. I am sorry that that is the way it has been since I came into this place and I am sorry to probably leave this place and have it the same way.

This place needs to move to non-partisanship. If we can have a free vote on abortion which is about life, on capital punishment which is about life, can we not have a free vote on the millions that will be killed by these kinds of decisions? Everybody calls for it but when the vote comes it will be by party. Unfortunately. I wish that it could be half here, and half here, and half here so we could get a bit of true expression.

The government leader has stated this is government policy so I will have to decide all of these things. I have not yet decided but I would like to see the evolution of our Parliament more in that direction.

A peace conference may or may not be the answer to the Middle East. I used to think that you could add it all up and find some simple solution for the Middle East until the ambassador from Jordan said to me: "Mr. Wenman, what is wrong with the *status quo*? Sometimes that is the best we can achieve?" If that is the best we can achieve, we should try to achieve that.

This war is not going to roll us back to the *status quo*. It is going to be as unstable after the war as it is now. Stability is not an outcome. A peace conference may be useful but certainly if our United Nations means anything it should get on with settling those issues in the Middle East, if not all of them at least some of them.

It is commendable that the NDP member stands up here as he reads the resolution, having new things added to it at the last minute. That is good. We should all do that kind of thing. But that resolution calls for all the problems of the Middle East to be settled at a peace conference. Well, really now.