

Government Orders

It is our feeling on this side of the House that this is a declaration of war or the government will interpret it as the right and sanction of Parliament to have this. Parliament will adjourn. There is a lot of discussion that it will not come back until March. It is also our feeling that this is Parliament's last opportunity to debate this issue. We are debating an extremely vague motion.

I would say that anyone in the House who expresses the concerns that the member has, along with the vague resolution, should be voting with us against that resolution because I think your Prime Minister is going to betray you on it.

In the bottom line, if we are right, how many Canadians will be killed? What will be the casualty over there if they engage their Iraqi army, along with the Americans?

The other thing is how many Iraqis will be killed by the multinational force? There will be hundreds of thousands of Iraqis killed and injured in this.

In the final analysis, the sad tragedy of this is that blockade will work. It will take time to work. It may not suit the United States and its belligerent war-like effort there, but certainly those sanctions will work if they are given a chance. We ought to be working ourselves as hard as we can to impose those sanctions so that the Iraqis leave Kuwait peacefully, and then sort out the remainder.

There is no way Canadian Armed Forces should be deployed over there when we have a safer, much better and more effective opportunity to use those sanctions to achieve the ends without killing anybody.

Mr. Boyer: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member is doing a lot of crystal ball gazing not only as to when Parliament will be rising or being recalled, and all of that—which is quite an uncertain thing—not taking into account the ability to be recalled to his casualty statistics for what may or what may never happen.

Mr. Skelly (North Island—Powell River): But it may happen.

Mr. Boyer: He is saying that it may happen.

Mr. Skelly (North Island—Powell River): You said it may happen.

Mr. Boyer: Mr. Speaker, in my remarks on which the hon. member is making his comments, I was very deliberate and very clear about the sequence of events that are possible.

I talked about the time deadline that is going to be included in this resolution and the opportunity that that gives again to Saddam Hussein to recognize what he is up against and the seriousness to the whole international community of what he has done.

I think there is a tendency to sort of obscure the sincere efforts of a lot of people around the world to try to deal with this situation in a way that can contain it and preserve peace. As time goes by and the annexation of Kuwait continues month after month, there will come a point where it is *de facto* part of Iraq, and the world community will be standing there not having succeeded in what, since the day of the invasion, has been an almost unanimous view of the international community.

I know that the hon. member and the leader of his party have said that they view this as a declaration of war.

This interpretation is more of a statement than I would certainly be prepared to make. On the other hand, that interpretation by the New Democratic Party of Canada may certainly help to contribute to the psychological warfare that is necessary at this stage against Saddam Hussein to try to break through to him some realization that, in this century after all the wars and killings because of all the invasions and annexations, finally the United Nations has got an opportunity to say: "International law and order cannot tolerate the armed annexation of neighbouring countries."

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad—I mean it—to have a chance to speak on this subject. It has meant a lot to me for most of my life.

When I was a boy, I heard the effective beginning for us of World War II in church one Sunday morning, that is that Britain had declared war on Germany. I know that was not the first event, but that was what brought it home to Canadians.

It is not by coincidence that since then this has, for me, been not only a political question but a religious one.