

has been said. It is a point of order and it is not a point of privilege, and I would invite you to consider that.

Standing Order 106.(3) of this House specifically says:

Within ten sitting days of the receipt, by the clerk of a standing committee, of a request signed by any four members of the said committee, the Chairman of the said committee shall convene such a meeting—

The point I would like to make is that by the government deliberately not producing members for that, they are causing the standing order to be breached. The event that is supposed to occur under the standing order cannot, by virtue of the fact that the government does not constitute the requisite quorum. I believe that point has not been raised by other hon. members. I would invite the Speaker to—

Mr. Speaker: I can assure the hon. member that that point has been raised. I fully understand what took place. If one wants to refer back to the argument of the hon. member for Thunder Bay—Atikokan, I complimented him on the fact that it was extremely concise and did cover these points.

I think this is why we should move on to Orders of the Day.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

IRAQ

INVASION OF KUWAIT

The House resumed from Wednesday, October 17, consideration of the motion of Mr. Clark (Yellowhead):

That this House condemn the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and, encouraged by the unprecedented international consensus demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the full restoration of the legitimate government of Kuwait, affirm unequivocally its support for Canada's actions in the United Nations Security Council and its support for all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions adopted since August 2 and for the despatch of members of the Canadian Forces to take part in the multinational military effort in and around the Arabian Peninsula; and That, upon adoption of this motion, the said motion shall be deemed referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.

Government Orders

and on the amendment of Mr. Axworthy (Winnipeg South Centre):

That the motion be amended after the words, "Canadian Forces" and read:

enforce these United Nations resolutions;

That this House censure the government for not recalling Parliament at the earliest opportunity to fulfil its legitimate function of consultation and debate as to what role Canada should play in the resolution of the present crisis; and

That upon adoption of this motion, the said motion shall be deemed referred to the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade.

and on the subamendment of Ms. McLaughlin:

That the motion be amended by adding the following after the word "resolutions"

And further, that Canada work at the Security Council to seek assurances that no country will undertake offensive military operations against Iraq unless they are under UN command and explicitly authorized by the Security Council.

Mr. Fred J. Mifflin (Bonavista—Trinity—Conception): Mr. Speaker, I will say at the outset, as the associate critic for national defence, as a Newfoundlander, and as a Canadian and somebody who has had some experience in the events that have culminated in the Gulf crisis, that I am delighted to stand and speak about this momentous occasion in Canadian military and, indeed, Canadian political history.

By way of an overview of what I plan to do in the next 20 minutes, I want to comment on certain specifics of the what, why, how, when, and where of this particular subject. I want to dispel maybe some of the phoney issues, the make-believe issues in this particular crisis. I want to look at the human aspect of it because this is something you cannot dehumanize even if you wanted to. It is an aspect that many members in the House had direct association with.

I see the hon. minister for health and welfare who, indeed, I am sure would share a lot of the views I will mention this morning and expound upon.

Then I would like to in a more macro sense, having gone through these micro issues, perhaps give you what I believe to be an overview of maybe the way we should be doing business in future in consideration of our defence policies in Canada. We have been doing defence policy in both parties pretty well the same way since World War II and maybe this is a chance for us to have a look at this crisis, the evolution of world order, and maybe get some