

Government Orders

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope that those who are engaged in the fight in the Middle East, our Canadian troops, are going to come home soon, and that there will not be any casualties.

Let us hope and pray that there is going to be a peace conference to end this war as soon as possible.

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, while my colleague was speaking—I do not know if he was aware—but through CNN, a rolling SCUD missile they called it, dropped on Tel Aviv. Chemical warfare has been launched by Saddam Hussein against a country that I think showed incredible discipline, was not involved in financing Mr. Saddam Hussein, who in turn marched in and raped his neighbour. He deliberately attacked a country that had not been involved. There was no link to what was going on between Saddam Hussein and Kuwait.

I watched as the announcers and the reporters, with a great deal of bravery and some sense of foolheartedness, spoke without their gas masks on. Then they were advised to please put on their gas masks. It was with no great ease that they put these things on their faces. I thought it was supposed to be easy to protect yourself in this chemical warfare situation.

My heart is pounding. My stomach is sick. I cannot even cry, I am so numb.

Israel has not retaliated as yet. But I ask you, if you were a minister of state, if you were a member of the Knesset, or a minister of that state, what would you advise your cabinet and what would your constituents be saying to you right now? What would be the Israelis' expectation of their cabinet ministers and their leaders?

Mr. Kindy: Mr. Speaker, I was informed just before I started speaking that there was a missile attack launched on Tel Aviv. I am really saddened to hear that it is chemical warfare.

This is why I personally felt that we should not start a war in the Middle East, but rather work with sanctions because sanctions were working. There certainly were very positive results from those sanctions, and I as a person who was born in Europe and who lived through war, know that once the war starts, you never know how it ends, the casualties and sacrifice of people, and the families that are being killed.

• (1950)

You ask me what would be my advice if I were a cabinet minister and I were in the Israeli government. It is a fair question, but it is not a question that is easy for me to answer. As you know, I am an outspoken person. I would say you have to react. I would not blame you if you did. But I still believe that those who are responsible for starting this war, whether it is Hussein or our neighbour to the south, are those who said we are going to do a surgical job. As you know, there is some information that already 300,000 people have been killed in Iraq. I answered your question, I think.

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Welland—St. Catharines—Thorold): Mr. Speaker, I too want to make a comment at this time. This will probably be known by many Canadians as the night of madness. The forces that have been unleashed tonight on Tel Aviv by Saddam Hussein will do incalculable damage not only to Tel Aviv.

Someone said earlier in the debate that Canada lost its innocence when it entered as a belligerent in this war. I suggest to you that the world is permitting itself tonight to be crucified. My colleague earlier asked a question. My question is not so much to the member from Calgary because in a way it is a rhetorical question. What happens to those children who cannot get on their gas masks? What happens to the men and women who are caught in the street and cannot get into a sealed room? All of us have spoken against the terrible sin of war and here tonight we all stand condemned.

We stand condemned as parliamentarians. The parliamentarians of the world stand condemned because we could not find a solution to this age old disease, the disease of war. I hope that the beginning of this madness will end before the whole world is sucked into the vortex of an incalculable slaughter.

Mr. Kindy: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments of the hon. member. There is no doubt about it, we have unleashed powers that we now have difficulty controlling and this might be just the beginning.

I agree that we should pray that this comes to a quick end, that peace can be restored and that some sanity is brought to the minds of politicians so that we can find peace on earth and stop the hatred between people.