

*Government Orders*

Our position as a party has always been in favour of collective security. It goes back to 1939. It goes back to the comments I earlier quoted by Mr. Knowles in support of collective security, and we support collective security to this day. We say it is entirely appropriate for forces to be in Saudi Arabia to prevent further aggression by Saddam Hussein. We have had no difficulty with that, and we entirely support the right of the State of Israel to defend itself. We say that the international community should be ready to defend the State of Israel from attack. This is what collective security means.

Our position, and I thought it was that of the Liberal Party as well, is: How do you roll back aggression that has already happened? When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait on August 2, it became a *fait accompli*. How do you then roll it back? Fundamentally it gets down to two choices. Either you move military might in to roll back Iraq and to "liberate" Kuwait, or you use sanctions and you apply pressure through sanctions that will change the behaviour of that government.

All the studies we have referred to have said that such action as economic sanctions would have been effective to change the behaviour of that government and to secure the objectives of the United Nations by removing Iraq from Kuwait. Our argument is that military force was not the appropriate way of righting the breach of international law on August 2. But we fully support the use of force to further protect countries in the region, and we have always been in favour of collective security.

**Mr. Ross Belsher (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport):** Madam Speaker, I was prepared to speak yesterday, but the circumstances under which we were prepared to speak have changed. However, the motion that we have before us has not changed.

The motion states:

That this House reaffirms its support of the United Nations in ending the aggression by Iraq against Kuwait.

I might say, Madam Speaker, that Canada is at a crossroads in its life as a nation. Many people have spoken about whether or not we should be part of this United Nations force in the Persian Gulf. I, for one, am in full agreement with it. I was in agreement last fall. I

was in agreement last summer. I am still in agreement now that fighting has commenced.

Canada continues to be an active participant in the UN. We are part of the international community and as such we have certain responsibilities that we must meet.

The Prime Minister stated quite clearly and rightly that the violation of the sovereignty of one state by another is of national interest to Canada. We must remember that the UN was created at the end of the Second World War to foster international co-operation and to provide a forum through which disputes could be resolved and, hopefully, war prevented.

An act of aggression has taken place. The sovereignty of a nation has been violated. This violation contradicts the accepted principles of international affairs. It flies in the face of the international world order that is represented by the UN.

The world has expressed its outrage through the UN by saying that this aggression cannot go unchallenged. Order has been disrupted and it is in the world's interest and in Canada's interest that this order be restored. Unless we act to preserve the order that allows countries to deal with one another, we face chaos.

The UN continues to be the appropriate vehicle by which sovereign states can govern their relationships. Canada is committed to the UN because the UN reflects the belief that Canadians share, the belief in the need for law and order.

The UN and its members are necessarily concerned with the violation of the sovereignty of one member state by another. International order has been jeopardized and as such the UN has taken action to express its firm belief that Iraq has acted in an unacceptable manner. The UN has taken action to restore international peace and security and to restore international order, and has given its permission.

Canada has joined in an international effort in support of the UN resolutions by committing personnel and materiel. We have sent the Canadian Armed Forces to the gulf to signify our support of the UN and our opposition to the violence and atrocities being perpetrated by Iraq upon Kuwait. Canadian lives are in jeopardy.