

Oral Questions

Reid, the Commissioner General, and a B.C. businessman named Jimmy Pattison, Expo 86 Chairman and President. For one summer Expo 86 transformed Vancouver, which is celebrating its one hundredth anniversary, into a cosmopolitan crossroads. To the thousands of volunteers, sponsors, and participants we say a hearty thank you for your hard work and hospitality. A job well done!

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN THE GALLERY OF DAIL ÉIREANN PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the attention of Members the presence in our gallery of members of the Public Accounts Committee of the Dail, Ireland, led by their Chairman, Mr. Denis Foley.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

DISARMAMENT

ICELANDIC SUMMIT—COMMENT BY FORMER UNITED STATES
NEGOTIATOR

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. Paul Warnke, the chief U.S. negotiator of the 1977 SALT talks, was on *The Journal* last night commenting on the summit in Iceland. He said:

I think that the only chance of progress is if there is somebody who has both the wisdom and the guts to stand up and say to the President of the United States: "You're giving away a chance for genuine progress toward nuclear stability and you are pursuing pie in the sky".

Will the Prime Minister tell us whether he agrees with that statement? Does he have the wisdom and the guts to send that message to the President on behalf of the people of Canada?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the comments made by Mr. Warnke who operated in this area on behalf of another administration. I would be inclined to endorse the view expressed by Lord Carrington when he said that we agree that possibilities for significant progress had emerged in a number of areas. He underlined the importance of following these up energetically in the appropriate negotiating fora.

In the morning after an important meeting such as that I think that one must quite properly look at the matter constructively and see if there is a possibility of building bridges in the future. I think that possibility exists, and Canada will do all it

can to be helpful in that process as the parties return to Geneva.

[Translation]

INQUIRY WHETHER PRIME MINISTER SHARES VIEWS OF
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Prime Minister.

Mr. Warnke is not the only person to point out, in his comments and elsewhere, that the gap between Messrs. Gorbachev and Reagan still exists and has even widened as a result of the failure of the preliminary Summit.

I would like to know where the Prime Minister finds the basis for his optimism and whether he agrees with the comments made by the Secretary of State for External Affairs this morning.

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member mentions a gap that has widened and a failed meeting at the Summit. I am inclined to recognize that a serious problem exists, but also that there is the potential for future progress. Meeting under ideal conditions, both parties discussed a very complex and delicate problem, leaving in place mechanisms for sustained and continuing negotiations in the future. I have every reason to expect that the Geneva talks will proceed in an effective and productive fashion, and that ultimately, Mr. Gorbachev will go to the United States, as agreed, to conclude the talks.

STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE—DISARMAMENT POLICY—
GOVERNMENT POSITION

Hon. Donald J. Johnston (Saint-Henri—Westmount): Mr. Speaker, we in the Opposition consider the Star Wars Program favoured by the President of the United States to be entirely incompatible with a disarmament policy.

Does the Minister agree with us now?

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I repeat what I have said before, on behalf of the Government, that although this Canadian Government will not agree to take part in the government-to-government development of this policy and in the research involved, I think, as NATO Secretary General Lord Carrington mentioned, that in the circumstances and considering the activities being deployed by the other side, it was a prudent gesture on the part of the United States and the Alliance to undertake research in this field.

We share that view.

● (1420)

[English]

UNITED STATES POSITION ON STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE

Hon. Lloyd Axworthy (Winnipeg—Fort Garry): Mr. Speaker, I, too, have a question for the Prime Minister. The historic progress which he and the Secretary of State for