

S. O. 31

I stressed the importance of these families' testimony and I am pleased to report to the House that the members of the committee reconsidered their decision and that the families of the victims of Polytechnique were invited to testify. As a parliamentarian interested in gun control, I am very happy I could help make their participation possible.

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[English]

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, the world stands today at the brink of war.

It is a matter of deep concern to people all around the world. We, in this House, are going to face a decision as to what Canada's role should be in that war. It is a difficult decision.

Canada has, in the past, been prepared to contribute to the defence of freedom. The terrible cost of a war must be weighed against the objective, taking into account that there is an alternative, that sanctions have every possibility of working. This morning there was a report in *The Globe and Mail* which stated that there is a nearly 100 per cent chance of success for sanctions. In that event, Canadian participation in a war would be an unspeakable crime and one which this House cannot endorse.

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PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Ms. Mary Clancy (Halifax): Mr. Speaker, Canadians are shocked and apprehensive today. The very real prospect of war has created an atmosphere of unreality and disbelief. Since the Suez crisis we, as a nation, have taken great pride in our role as peacekeeper to the world. Now we watch as our country's great prestige is being bartered for base coin.

Millions of Canadians join in this plea. Do not throw away 40 years of international goodwill. Do not send hundreds of young men and women into a wasteful war. Take the path of sanity and sense. Sanctions are working. Let the embargo bring Hussein to a halt. If the bombs fall, take our people out of danger and show to the world that Canada seeks the peaceful solution. Maintain our

historical position as peacemaker, not warmonger. Refuse to countenance insanity. This is not a movie set, this is real. This life and death. Do not opt for death.

In the name of peace, in the name of justice and in the name of Canada, do not throw us over the brink.

[Translation]

For God's sake, give peace a chance!

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[English]

LITHUANIA

Mrs. Pauline Browes (Scarborough Centre): Mr. Speaker, in recent days the world has reacted with disbelief at the violent acts of aggression imposed by the Soviet military on the people Lithuania and its democratically elected government. The threat has also been extended to Latvia and Estonia and yet President Gorbachev denies prior knowledge of these abhorrent acts.

Who is in charge of the Soviet Union? Mikhail Gorbachev or the military? What has become of the promised reform of the Soviet Union? Why has the Soviet Union reverted to force rather than negotiation to resolve the legitimate concerns of the Baltic States?

Canadian and, indeed, international assistance to the Soviet Union must be dependent on the answers to these questions. I urge our government to use every means at its disposal to impress upon the Soviet Union the urgency of an immediate peaceful resolution of this crisis.

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[Translation]

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Phillip Edmonston (Chambly): Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, 6,000 Montrealers demonstrated that, as far as the conflict with Iraq is concerned, Canadian unity still exists.

Like Canadians across the country, these Quebecers showed they were strongly opposed to Canada's involvement in a war against Iraq. A poll published in *La Presse* confirmed that 72 per cent of the people of Quebec are against Canada's involvement.