

*Oral Questions*

the right to place Canadian troops at war in the Middle East?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, we brought the matter forward for full debate on September 24. It is going to be brought before the House for full debate again tomorrow. If circumstances require, we will bring it for debate again.

**Mr. John Brewin (Victoria):** I take that, Mr. Speaker, and I assume that the House will take that as in fact a commitment that before troops are committed to the Persian Gulf that the government will bring forward yet another resolution.

Let me conclude with a supplementary on the resolution that is coming before the UN on Thursday.

• (1430)

It is clear to this House and to the world that a war in the gulf will be a catastrophe not just for Canadians or other forces who are involved but for civilians, the environment and the whole region.

Will the government use its position on the Security Council just for once in this term and speak and act independently at the Security Council for peace and not war in the Persian Gulf?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, that is a deeply offensive suggestion to the people who represent Canada on the Security Council whose entire commitment is to the cause of peace.

**Some hon. members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Mulroney:** From the very beginning, Canada's conduct has always been devoted to the cause of peace. It was our position. We could hardly be accused of anything when our position was the same on most of these motions as China, the Soviet Union, Colombia, Cote-d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Finland, Romania, Malaysia or Yemen.

This is the international community coming together and saying to those of all political persuasions from all areas of the world and conveying a message to Saddam Hussein that indeed, as my friend says, war is a catastrophe.

Rather than accuse the United Nations or the United States, the NDP should be conveying that message to Iraq.

[*Translation*]

**HOUSING**

**Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for Housing. The minister is about to table before Cabinet his recommendations regarding the co-operative housing movement. The Canadian people are concerned that the government will abolish the mixed income housing program which was very successful in the past. Why does the minister intend to abolish the Co-operative Housing Program? Will he tell the Canadian people now what his plans are?

[*English*]

**Hon. Alan Redway (Minister of State (Housing)):** Mr. Speaker, I have said a number of times in the House already and as recently as last evening that the government is reviewing the current Co-operative Housing Program that has been in place for the last five years.

We are consulting in good faith with the co-operative housing movement and the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada. I will be making recommendations in due course before the end of the year on where we should be going in co-op housing from here on in. No question about it, I will be making those recommendations.

**Mr. Mac Harb (Ottawa Centre):** Mr. Speaker, the minister is well aware that there are over 1.2 million Canadians who are in need of housing.

I would like to specifically ask the minister if he will extend his support to: One, meeting the high demand for co-operative housing through the construction of at least 5,000 units annually. Two, the continuation of index-linked financing, and three, the maintenance of the income mix component for new and existing co-operative housing.

**Hon. Alan Redway (Minister of State (Housing)):** Mr. Speaker, in 1985 the government undertook some consultations with all people involved in housing in Canada.

At that time, as a result of those discussions, the government arrived at a policy whereby all federal housing dollars would be targeted toward low income Canadians.