

*Oral Questions*

making us more competitive and creating jobs. Let's get on with it.

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**NATIONAL DEFENCE**

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, let me just say: first, Margaret Thatcher, next Brian Mulroney.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Langdon:** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. Several departments confirmed that they are required to cut their expenses. The government claims this is made necessary by the additional expenses related to sending troops to the Gulf. Here is my question. How much are the operations in the Persian Gulf costing Canada? The government must be candid about this.

**An hon. member:** Impossible!

[*English*]

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I have always attempted to tell the truth and so has the government, and if the hon. member would do the same, we would get along a lot better. I can confirm for the hon. member that the truth will be out tomorrow when my colleague, the President of the Treasury Board, presents the supplementary estimates.

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, Canadians are worried that this government is going to use the gulf crisis as an excuse for damaging cutbacks which will hurt people right across this country. As the CLC has pointed out, the government will gain—

**An hon. member:** The CLC?

**Mr. Langdon:** Yes, the CLC has pointed out that the government will gain at least \$1 billion in extra revenue from the gas price increases which the gulf crisis has caused.

I want to ask the government, first, if it is prepared to see that this extra income, which it will receive from these gas price increases, goes to pay for the costs of our action in the gulf and, second, will the government make a commitment to see to it that the Auditor General gives us a fair accounting, as quickly as possible, of what our real expenses in the gulf are for this military intervention?

**Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of National Defence):** Mr. Speaker, I would be more comforted if the member and his party would be supportive of the actions that have been taken by this government to bring about peace and stability in the world.

The actions taken by this government provide for the men and women who serve the people of Canada in the task in which they are involved. If the member and his party would make a commitment to assure us of their support in providing the necessary equipment and the necessary sustainability for those men and women who are serving that member and all members in the House of Commons and the people of Canada.

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**HOUSING**

**Mr. Mike Breauh (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a supplementary question to the President of the Treasury Board.

The minister will know that this type of budgetary adjustment has ramifications much closer to home. Many are worried that in the non-profit and co-op housing sector, there will be cuts made. At a time when the metro Toronto Homebuilders' Association is reporting 72 per cent unemployment, more than 55,000 people out of work in the normal course of home construction, which is more than enough to fill the Skydome, is the minister prepared to explain why his choice is to do his budgetary matters in this way, even though it might put more than 55,000 people out of work and deny those who need reasonable, affordable housing a chance to have it?

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, I believe the hon. member is getting over-exercised about something which will be made clear tomorrow. I can only repeat that tomorrow, at noon, I will be tabling Supplementary Estimates (B) and he will have all the answers. Then he can possibly discuss them with us.