

Oral Questions

Ms. Lynn Hunter (Saanich—Gulf Islands): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary question. [Translation]

The definition of collective security seems to be limited to military security. Given the scientific evidence of the global ecological implications of war in the gulf, will the government broaden its definition of collective security beyond the narrow view of military supremacy?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, that was done some time ago, not only in the speech I had the honour to deliver on behalf of Canada to the last General Assembly of the United Nations, but most profoundly in the green paper brought down by my colleague, the Minister of the Environment.

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ALTERNATE FUELS

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, the Persian Gulf crisis has again underscored how dependent the western world is on the fragile oilfields of the Middle East. In response, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Can the minister tell this House exactly what steps this government is taking to encourage seriously the development and use of alternative fuels like methanol, ethanol, propane, and natural gas?

Surely, if there is a time that we should think about running our cars on alternate fuels, it has to be now.

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member for the question.

I think the important point is, despite the gulf crisis, that the government has been involved in alternate fuels and fuel switching for some period of time. That has been the MILE program, the natural gas program that we have initiated, for example the agreements that we have signed with General Motors with respect to the methanol use and with the Ford Motor Company, also including transit buses.

I appreciate what the hon. member is saying as well. Within the green plan there is an initiative for further expansion of methanol, ethanol, and natural gas, compressed gas. I say to the hon. member that we will continue redoubling our efforts on it, but it has been going on for some period of time.

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Benoît Tremblay (Rosemont): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs. I am convinced that the decision to go to war can only be made on the basis of a deep conviction that the sanctions just could not work. I do not think that you have managed as yet to establish that.

I sent yesterday to your parliamentary secretary the results of an analysis of 115 cases which *The New York Times* published yesterday, where experts found that, in view of the exceptional effectiveness of the sanctions against Iraq there were 100 per cent chances that in the long run the sanctions would succeed and that even—

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. member please come to his question?

Mr. Tremblay (Rosemont): What can you reply to that?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I missed the question, if there was one. Perhaps the hon. member could repeat it very briefly.

Mr. Benoît Tremblay (Rosemont): What can you reply to the experts who carried out this analysis?

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): I believe the hon. member is referring to an article in *The Globe and Mail* and *The New York Times* where a number of social scientists carried out projections on the probability of success of the sanctions. As I said yesterday during the debate—I do not know whether the hon. member was here at the time—

An hon. member: No, he was not here.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): He was not here? I clearly indicated then that there was a difference between concrete evidence and social scientists' projections. We have no reason to believe that the sanctions in place against Iraq will have an impact on its military capacity before at least six months, maybe nine; perhaps much longer than that. As I have just told the Leader of the New Democratic Party, it is quite clear that even with the most stringent sanctions in the history of the world, strategic material can still get to Iraq thus allowing Saddam Hussein's to increase its military capacity.