

ENERGY

Mr. Garth Turner (Halton—Peel): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy and it concerns the status of methanol as a transportation fuel in Canada.

As the minister knows, oil passed the \$40-a-barrel mark yesterday and may be poised for more oil shocks as the Persian Gulf crisis continues. Given that, alternative fuels like methanol assume a greater importance for our energy security.

• (1500)

As the minister knows, vehicles powered by 85 per cent methanol are clean burning and practical. In fact, Canada is exporting 2,000 methanol burning cars to California.

Therefore, my question is this: Why can Canadians not buy methanol in Canada? What is the government intending to do to look at alternative fuels so that we can have more energy security for this country?

Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, let me thank the hon. member for the question. It is a sensible question.

I want to tell the hon. member and the House that the 85 per cent methanol is still in the experimental stage. As he mentioned in his question, Canada will be participating in the California test.

Canadian technology will be available, and we believe that it can be an export market for us as well as helping us in terms of alternate energy.

Also, I remind him of the MILE program where we are using methanol in heavy duty engines, two cycle engines. I want to inform him that in the near future, we will be announcing with a Winnipeg company called New Flyer Bus Lines a new program on methanol.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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[*Translation*]

LONGUE-POINTE MILITARY BASE

Mrs. Carole Jacques (Mercier): Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of National Defence. A study done by the firm Productivity Group at the

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request of DND last January recommends shutting down Longue-Pointe's military base. This would affect 1,200 workers and thousands of indirect jobs because the military base awards almost \$2 million worth of contracts annually to Montreal companies. Mr. Speaker, does the minister intend to follow up on or even consider this recommendation?

[*English*]

Hon. Bill McKnight (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, the study that was done was a preliminary study.

As the hon. member is aware, the Department of National Defence has had a reduction in its budget. Before any further action would be taken on the preliminary study, there would have to be a detailed study.

Hon. members must be aware that the responsibility that the Department of National Defence has is that of providing security to Canada. We do it in the most efficient manner possible.

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PRESENCE IN GALLERY

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw to the members attention, the presence in the gallery of His Excellency Mauno Koivisto, President of the Republic of Finland.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: Also, I wish to draw to the attention of members the presence in the gallery of Speaker Sean Treacy and Deputy Speaker James Tunney of the Irish House.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

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POINTS OF ORDER

REPLY DURING QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Chris Axworthy (Saskatoon—Clark's Crossing): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Yesterday in the House, the Minister of Public Works told the House in reply to a question concerning Technitread Tire Manufacturing that the company had purchased the land upon which the plant was constructed for \$250,000.

However, on May 17, 1990, the minister and his officials testified before the Standing Committee on