Government Orders

Bill C-18, an act to establish the Department of Multiculturalism and Citizenship and to amend certain acts in relation thereto.

Bill C-54, an act to amend the Criminal Code (joinder of counts).

Bill C-94, an act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Public Service of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1991.

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

SUPPORT FOR UNITED NATIONS

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Clark (Yellowhead), (p. 16984) and of the motion of Mrs. Collins (p. 17150).

Mr. Ian Waddell (Port Moody-Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. member who just spoke and the House some feeling from my own riding on the west coast of Canada. I have a petition and some comments that were submitted by the Como Lake High School in Coquitlam, British Columbia, wherein the students expressed deep concern over the position Canada has taken with respect to the crisis in the Middle East. They are opposed to war. They were encouraging their member of Parliament, in the strongest possible terms, to speak on their behalf, to use dialogue and other sanctions to bring a peaceful end to this crisis. I received a similar message in a petition presented to the Port Moody High School Student's Council through Lisa Buckley and Chilwin Cheng. They presented to me a petition with 1,000 signatures, so I have 1,266 signatures from the students at Port Moody Senior High School and Como Lake High School.

I bring this to the attention of the hon. member because this was really done before the outbreak of hostilities. I think the hon. member and other members would agree with me and with these students that there is a deep concern among young people in Canada against war. They are right; they are against war.

I will just ask the member to comment on this matter. I feel that after the shooting is finished in the Middle East—and hopefully that will be soon—the real challenge for the world will be to make peace. We will need a Middle East peace conference to build confidence,

security building mechanisms, co-operation, and a feeling of security among all the countries so that this will never happen again.

I am pleased to present those views on behalf of myself and the young people in those high schools. I would ask the hon. member and other members to comment about that position.

Mr. Boudria: Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague for his question. Actually he reminded me of something I should have raised myself, that is the fact that yesterday, young people from l'École secondaire de Plantagenet in my constituency came to my office with a four-foot by eight-foot plywood postcard. Members whose offices are in the West Block might have walked by my office and have seen the postcard advocating peace addressed to the Prime Minister. I see our colleague from Simcoe across the way. Her office is just across from mine. She has obviously seen the postcard. It is very impressive, with all the work that was done by those young people.

I want to tell my colleague who just raised that question and brought the petition to the attention of the House that it is no coincidence young people in large numbers signed it. Wars are not fought by people my age or the age of most members of this House, excluding yourself of course, Madam Speaker, because you are far younger than most of us, wars are fought by young people. It is not a coincidence that they have a particular concern about war. Earlier I alluded to that in my remarks as a father of two teenagers and to the totally broader dimension that it brings. Generals themselves are not largely on the battlefields; it is the soldiers who are on the battlefields, the able seamen and other people who are not officers and who are also the younger ones.

Finally, I would like to comment on the last item that our colleague brought to our attention, the whole issue of restoring peace to the general area afterward. This morning I watched the news on television. Dr. Henry Kissinger, a well-known personality in the area of foreign affairs, brought to the attention of everyone listening the fact that when all this is over things must be reconstructed in a way that will achieve long-term peace in the area.

If Iraq is totally devastated in such a way that nothing can be reconstructed, if devastation can be that severe,