

past six years are bearing fruits. We should also emphasize the determination shown by President Bush on this issue.

This major legislation, which should be passed by the US Congress before the end of the week should clear the way for the bilateral acid-rain accord now being negotiated which should ensure once and for all the elimination of acid rain.

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NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby—Kingsway): Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the Secretary of State for External Affairs refused to commit himself to play among Canada's allies a leadership role in an effort to convince them to never use nuclear weapons should war break out in the Persian Gulf. Thousands of Canadians men and women are quite concerned about the possibility of a war in the Middle-East which could result in a great many lives being lost.

[*English*]

Given the explosive and dangerous environment of the Persian Gulf in which the Canadian Peace Alliance estimates that there are 21 nuclear-capable ships carrying 368 nuclear weapons, it is imperative that all multinational forces operating in the Middle East immediately come under UN command. The peace seeking mandate of the United Nations will certainly help to prevent a nuclear or chemical conflict. Canada must lead the way in demanding that all countries involved pledge not to use chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

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THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound—Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, last Sunday heralded good news for both Canada and the environment with the announcement that both houses of the U.S. Congress had reached a consensus on the acid rain provisions contained in the new U.S. clean air legislation.

The legislated measures will cut the annual U.S. emissions of sulphur dioxide by 10 million tonnes or

S. O. 31

almost 50 per cent by the year 2001 and reduce the emissions of nitrogen oxides, the second major ingredient of acid rain, by between 2.5 million and four million tonnes by the same target date.

President George Bush has promised to sign the legislation into law, after its quick passage expected this week in both houses of the U.S. Congress.

As one who has fought long and hard for over 10 years on the acid rain issue, last Sunday's news was the realization of a dream come true and a personal vindication of the time and energy spent.

Mr. Speaker, I know also that you were a member who visited Washington some years ago to start putting the pressure on the United States government.

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SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. Guy H. Arseneault (Restigouche—Chaleur): Mr. Speaker, this is Small Business Week in Canada.

[*Translation*]

It would be appropriate to pause each year to emphasize the accomplishment of small and medium-sized businesses which are unquestionably the motor of our national economy. This of course is obvious when one realizes that over 98 per cent of the 900,000 Canadian corporations belong to these two categories.

Small businesses, which provides employment for over 40 per cent of the Canadian labour force, contribute very significantly to the welfare of our nation. There is no doubt that they will be called upon to play a very important role on the threshold of the 21st Century.

[*English*]

With the Canadian economy in recession, the federal government must readjust its high dollar and high interest rate economic policy that has been hurting Canadian businesses.

In conclusion, I wish to salute the entrepreneurial spirit of the small businesses in my riding of Restigouche—Chaleur, as well as to all those across Canada. Small businesses are the engines of the economy.