

*Petroleum Administration Act*

**Mrs. Erola:** No, it is not just gas. Examine that program very carefully. The core of the program, which has a start-up target date of April 1, 1981, will consist of grants to consumers to help cover the costs of converting space heating and hot water systems from oil to other energy sources such as natural gas, electricity, and renewable resources such as wood, solar and wind. Consumers will be eligible for grants of up to 50 per cent of their conversion costs, up to a maximum of \$800. In Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories the program will provide grants to upgrade insulation and improve furnace efficiency rather than going toward conversions. There are also special programs in those areas in the northernmost part of this country.

As hon. members are aware, the Canada oil substitution program will be administered in co-operation with provincial and territorial governments or designated authorities such as provincial Crown corporations. Draft agreements are now being discussed with the provinces and the territories but it is obvious to all that in such a massive undertaking time will be required to develop the full details of the program. I would urge all hon. members and all Canadian consumers who decide to convert their heating systems, and who have done so after October 28, 1980, the date on which the program was announced, to keep all receipts so as to apply for grants once the federal-provincial agreements on eligibility have been established and program funds have been approved by Parliament. It is important that all these receipts be kept.

● (1450)

As agreements with the provinces and the territories are worked out, hon. members will be kept informed. Here, I would like to dwell for a moment on the word "informed". I urge hon. members in this House likewise to inform their constituents. When I was in western Canada recently, many people indicated that they wanted to know how the national energy program would impact on them and how they could benefit from what it contained. Hon. members are aware that copies of this program are available. I urge every hon. member in this House to make this program available.

Every householder must be made aware of the program if we are to reach the goal of energy security for our citizens. All Canadians have a right to examine this program for themselves and to make their own decisions as to its merits. Every member of this House owes every householder in his constituency at least that much. To deprive constituents of that option is wrong, and as responsible members of Parliament it is our duty to see that our constituents are made aware of the contents of this energy program so that we can work together to ensure its success and Canada's energy future.

In conclusion, I would simply ask for the consideration of the members of this House. I ask them to consider Canada's position as a nation. An hon. member opposite remarked that I was giving a lecture, and perhaps I am. It disturbs me when I visit other parts of this country and learn that people in these areas have not been made aware of a program which has been distributed to their member. I feel it is incumbent upon each

member of this House to make sure that all this information is made available to their constituents.

I ask hon. members to consider Canada's position as a nation in an international system filled with crises. Also, I ask hon. members to place this debate and its implications in perspective. Canada is indeed a very fortunate nation and Canadians are among the most fortunate of all peoples on this globe. We have heard complaints that the national energy program is a financial grab at the expense of a provincial resource. Again, I ask, what have we done? In terms of revenue we have taken 2 per cent from the province and 12 per cent from the multinationals which are mostly foreign owned. And that was so that the national government could bring its share of revenues up to 24 per cent, a small change compared to other countries. That 24 per cent will help us become energy self-sufficient ten years down the road.

Members are aware, I am sure, of the budget recently announced by the present Conservative government in Great Britain. It included a 20 per cent tax on North Sea oil revenue, and this in addition to measures which increased health and social security payments and, I might add, the deindexing of pensions. Canadians are lucky indeed and, whether members opposite like it or not, this national government will continue to address the challenges which Canada must face and to act for all Canadians maximizing the benefits for the nation as a whole.

As in a good and healthy marriage, we will share the burdens and we will share the wealth. This government will not abdicate its national role, and I am confident that the initiatives included in the budget energy package will benefit all of Canada. Further, I am confident that we, as a national government, will reach an agreement with the producing provinces in the future which will be good for, fair to, and welcomed by, all Canadians.

**Mr. John Thomson (Calgary South):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Minister of State (Mines) (Mrs. Erola) was speaking about her recent visit to Calgary, I was reminded of the phrase, "There are none so blind as those who will not see". The minister suggested that hon. members should tell their constituents of the marvellous opportunities in the gas conversion program. The minister may be interested to know that 95 per cent of the homes in Alberta are presently heated by natural gas, so I do not think there is very much I can tell my constituents in that regard.

There are so many figures in this national energy program, and to say that they are confusing would be an understatement. But the minister stated that it would take only seven cents on the dollar to explore on Canadian lands. I wonder if the minister asked herself what is available for that 7 per cent, considering that Petro-Canada will have 25 per cent carried interest in the project, after a 40 per cent net profits tax, a 10 per cent basic royalty, and an 8 per cent production revenue tax have been paid. On a \$40 barrel of oil what is left is a minus quantity.