

corporation, the institute and its directors would form the nucleus of expertise.

The institute would consist of directors, half of whom would represent federal departments and agencies involved in solar systems and half would represent groups and associations with an interest in solar energy, such as the Canadian Solar Industries' Association, the Solar Energy Society of Canada, builders, engineers, architects, planners, interested unions, consumers, etc.

Some of the specific tasks the institute would perform are as follows:

(a) to facilitate the production by Canadian manufacturers of solar energy equipment and parts by examining, testing and studying proposed products and assisting in the development of prototypes suitable for manufacture.

This would be done in co-operation with the Canadian Solar Energy Association, the National Research Council, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

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(b) to sponsor, encourage and promote continuing research in Canada in respect of the application and use of solar energy and to further the development in Canada of solar energy technology.

Here the institute would co-operate with the National Research Council, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, the Canadian Solar Industries' Association and other interested groups.

(c) to prepare, compile, publish and distribute information relating to the application and use of solar energy.

This could be done in co-operation with the National Research Council, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources and private organizations such as the Solar Energy Society of Canada, the Biomass Research Institute and the Brace Research Institute of Montreal.

It is important to remember that some of this work is already being undertaken in some of the solar programs as well as by private agencies. But the time has come to focus these efforts and set national goals for solar energy development and application in areas such as manufacturing and construction, accommodating both passive solar designs and active solar systems, research, and development of incentives for consumers.

The institute, given the means, could also assist the provinces in the development of important provincial policies such as legislation to define rights to light, changes in the assessment acts so as to provide an incentive, or remove the disincentive for the homeowner who wishes to incorporate passive solar design features or an active solar system in a new or existing house. Most, if not all, of the provinces are now engaged in studying rights to light legislation. Many, including Alberta, are reviewing the question of tax assessment as it relates to solar equipped buildings and the Quebec government has even proposed the establishment of a solar Crown corporation, "La Société nationale des Énergies Nouvelles", in a white paper tabled on June 20, 1978.

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The institute, in addition, could consult with consumer groups and the Canadian Solar Industries' Association and review regularly the industrial standards now being established by the National Research Council and the Canadian Standards Association. Preliminary standards for solar collectors and a standard procedure for their evaluation are expected to be announced this spring.

In another area, the institute could explore the development of solar technology suitable for use in developing countries in consultation with the Canadian International Development Agency and the International Development Research Centre.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that what we have accomplished so far in Canada is a good start. Now we need the instrument to enable us to move another step ahead. A Canadian solar energy institute is the means whereby we can get the fullest utilization from an energy option that is clear and environmentally sound, develop a new Canadian industry which will create many new jobs for Canadians and, if possible, reach the potential predicted for the year 2000 before the turn of the century.

We have a lot to gain. By supplying at least 5 per cent of our primary energy from renewables, other than hydro, in the year 2000 and 10 per cent by the year 2025 as proposed in the report "Energy Futures for Canadians", our estimated savings would be about 400,000 barrels of oil a day in the year 2000, worth \$2.5 billion by today's prices, and one million barrels a day by 2025, worth up to \$5 billion a year.

Another estimate comes from the National Research Council, to the effect that we could save close to \$1.2 to \$1.4 billion a year in the cost of imported oil if renewable energy provides 4 per cent to 5 per cent of our primary energy needs by the year 2000. Whichever of these two estimates is closest to the truth, their magnitude alone suggests they must command attention.

Of course, these potential savings have to be weighed against the capital investments needed to achieve them, but reducing our dependence on imported oil, it seems to me, would make this investment all the more desirable for this and future generations of Canadians.

The need for a Canadian solar energy institute is even greater now than it was two years ago when hon. members discussed and approved Bill C-309. I understand that the government is favourably inclined to allow this bill to receive second reading approval today and be sent to committee for study. I invite the views of interested members and hope that remarks will be kept within the allotted hour so as to permit passage of this bill.

**Mr. Stan Schellenberger (Wetaskiwin):** Mr. Speaker, I was interested in your remarks at the opening of the debate. I had attempted to put forward a private member's bill establishing a similar association or institute to deal with getting government involved in setting up standards for solar energy equipment. I believe this is a very important area that has to be moved into with great speed. There is a requirement that government be involved with legislation in order that compa-