

*Adjournment Debate*

• (1910)

As for regulations on equitable participation, the Official Languages Act already sets out the government's long standing commitment in this area. I can tell hon. members that we are committed to ensure that English speaking and French speaking Canadians have equal opportunities to obtain employment and advancement in federal institutions. Current government policies are clear and explicit on this matter. In fact, participation levels in the Public Service broadly reflect those found in the appropriate sectors of the national labour force.

Any specific imbalances, such as anglophone participation in federal institutions in Quebec for example, are being dealt with by Treasury Board and the institutions concerned. Issuing regulations on language of work and equitable participation do not appear to be necessary at this time.

Moreover, I can assure hon. members that this government will continue to actively meet its obligations and commitments to the Canadian public and to its employees in accordance with the Official Languages Act.

#### THE ENVIRONMENT

**Mr. Ross Harvey (Edmonton East):** Mr. Speaker, do you remember the green plan? Do you remember the government's promise of significant and real progress in tackling environmental problems? The minister and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources seem to have forgotten. At least that is the message in the latest budget.

For the seventh year in a row the department's funding of energy efficiency, conservation and alternatives was cut. Last year's already pathetic \$40 million was cut another 12 per cent down to \$35 million. That is a whopping cut of \$375 million, 91 per cent in this budget item since 1984 when the budget was \$410 million, the first year of the Conservative government's reign.

By contrast, in 1991-92 the government will be spending \$154.8 million as a loan for the Husky Oil upgrader at Lloydminster and \$180.6 million in the Hibernia project. That is more than \$335 million in two oil megaprojects in 1991-92 alone. That is almost 10 times the entire budget for all energy efficiency, conservation and alternatives.

In the case of Hibernia, the government will be giving over \$1 billion of taxpayers' money—that's right, a \$1 billion gift—to a consortium that is planning to ship virtually all Hibernia oil straight to the United States. It will not even be refined in Canada. That \$1 billion given to Hibernia, a straight subsidy to American consumers, would have paid for this government's measly annual funding commitment to all energy efficiency, conservation and alternatives—remember, Mr. Speaker, \$35 million—for over 28 years.

Again, by contrast, this year the government will funnel \$215 million into nuclear power development through Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and the Atomic Energy Control Board and there is more. According to a speech the minister gave June 5, 1990, to the Canadian Nuclear Association, Canada has invested a staggering \$30 billion in nuclear facilities. Presumably this includes the \$40 million per year that AECL spent over the last 10 years just to investigate sweeping its radioactive waste into a hole in the Canadian Shield.

One final contrast, even after just six months in power the New Democratic Government of Ontario has already left the Mulroney Conservatives far behind on environmentally responsible energy policy. As just one example, the Ontario government has ordered Ontario Hydro to divert \$240 million—that is \$60 million a year for four years—from nuclear energy development into reducing electricity demand through energy conservation and efficiency.

That diversion alone is worth more than one and a half times the total annual energy department spending on all federal programs for efficiency, conservation and alternate energy. Indeed that total federal budget of \$35 million is only a little over twice what Ontario Hydro will spend each year merely on advertising its conservation and efficiency programs.

I should point out as well that Ontario Hydro is subsidizing the federal government in a pilot project to save energy in about 60 federal government buildings. That project, to install new lighting, motors and insulation, which reportedly will save the federal government \$860,000 a year in energy costs, is being extended to all federal buildings in Ontario. I do hope that this program will demonstrate to the Mulroney Conservatives just what a little leadership can do.