

*Private Members' Business*

on preserving our environment just as our environment depends on good economic practices.

With this principle in mind and with Canadians from coast to coast making a conscious effort to turn off lights in empty rooms, not run water, recycle as much as possible, one has to ask what is the federal government doing to keep tabs on its own wasteful or responsible environmental habits.

Last fall government members described as premature my private member's motion to establish the function of an environmental auditor general with responsibility for reporting environmentally unsound practices within federal government operations and recommending obviously positive improvements.

There is another opportunity this evening to show that government is prepared not only to legislate but to lead and that there is a real commitment to greening the government. I am seeking the support of all parliamentarians for a motion now that proposes a much more simple process that can be simply integrated into our existing budget process. What is proposed is progressive action that can save money, deal with the debt and the deficit, and help the environment.

The motion before us is that every federal department or agency should include in its annual budget an accounting of how much it spends on resources where the use or disposal of those resources has an impact on the environment, including setting annual targets for reduction and reporting yearly on how much money is saved.

Private sector companies are already realizing phenomenal savings and phenomenal increases in productivity and efficiency from pollution prevention. The 3M company, for instance, started with a program to reduce waste, reduce costs and improve efficiency called its world-wide 3P program—Pollution Prevention Pays. This program has resulted in savings of \$25 million in the first year and a total to date of \$500 million in new annual savings. That is counting savings only in the first year in which they occur, not in every year thereafter when they recur.

As the green plan pointed out, the federal government is the largest single business in Canada. It purchases more than \$9 billion each year of commercial, consumer and industrial goods. Cutting just 10 per cent from that

bill would mean a 3 per cent reduction in the annual deficit.

A preliminary inquiry to a sampling of departments revealed some surprising opportunities for reducing the depletion of natural resources and damage to the earth's ecosystem caused by government operations while saving large amounts of money.

Transport Canada, for example, consumes a whopping \$41.8 million in energy for buildings and vehicles annually. Environment Canada, one of our smaller departments, adds nearly \$14 million to the taxpayers' energy bill every year. Cutting back in energy usage across operations would save money and would cut the impact of operations on global climate change, ozone depletion, and postpone or eliminate the need for new and expensive electricity generation.

Paper use is another frontier for saving both dollars and the environment. We have to remember that every time we use a resource we have multiple impact. We have the impact of drawing the resource from the environment. We have the impact of the cost of that resource. We have the impact on the environment during the course of its use in the case of energy for instance, and we have the impact of disposing of it.

Environment Canada alone spends \$2 million for paper every year, representing depletion of forest resources, damage to waterways in the manufacturing process, energy costs to process and then haul it away as garbage and an unnecessary load on landfill sites.

The costs of garbage disposal, water, sewage and virtually all products used in government operations, if we do not use them carefully and wisely, all these products derive from natural resources. Their use can be cut back by a careful look at how much is being used, how much it is costing and how we, too, like private sector companies, can reduce waste and be more productive and more efficient.

We recognize that the federal government is the major business in many communities across Canada. In this particular community of the national capital region it happens to be the largest business. But in many communities across Canada it is a considerable consumer of resources and generator of waste. Yet we do not participate in community blue-box programs across Canada and we are not providing leadership in those communities where we are a major influence in community