

*Energy*

speak of the governments in this set-up. I am simply saying: let there be honesty.

The minister did mention he did not intend to tax heat pumps. Hooray! Heat pumps should have been used in this country for the last 50 or 60 years.

The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has a document in its possession showing that, in the Ottawa area alone, one simple solar energy device, available at a capital cost of about \$2,000 a home, could supply 70 per cent of the heat the home requires. This is contained in its annual report. Utilization of agricultural waste, forest waste—all these things would head off the demand with a much bigger percentage than the minister is contemplating.

If we fail to take advantage of these different energy sources we shall be faced with the construction of many more nuclear power plants, intensive exploration for sources of coal, development of nuclear fusion devices—I do not know what this will mean to the quality of our environment. These other sources I have mentioned are non-polluting. Besides, they will make money for us. I have not even mentioned all the exotics—power from hydrogen and so on; we are not obliged to worry about these things because we have these other sources here on a permanent basis.

There is more money in waste in Canada today than in the products we produce. There is more money in waste straw, on the basis of present knowledge, than we get out of the wheat itself. This is true of almost all the products I could mention.

What we have witnessed here tonight is a complete surrender of a minister and a government to public relations postures. That is all it is.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):** Canada, as a nation, is strong. We shall survive. But it will be easier to survive if we get rid of this government.

**Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to express my thanks to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) for making available to us a copy of his speech. I have read it with great interest and concern. It is not possible in the few minutes we have at our disposal to deal with all the topics which are dealt with in that speech. However, I should like to make a few comments.

I begin by saying that the minister's campaign for conservation should be termed "operation bolting the door after the horse has been stolen".

The minister said in his statement tonight:

At the beginning of this decade the Government of Canada foresaw the dawning of this new era . . .

Well, it may have foreseen it, but it certainly did nothing about it.

It is only four years since the members of the party to which I belong were trying desperately to get the government to veto the decision of the National Energy Board to permit the export of 6.3 billion cubic feet of gas to the United States. We contended then that our own reserves

were not sufficient for this to be done without the risk of a shortage in Canada. We were ridiculed. The fact is, as has now been admitted, that we are presently facing a very serious situation.

It is only a few years since the minister's predecessor, and the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Chrétien) when he was Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, were making speeches in the United States inviting the oil and gas industry to come to Canada where there were unlimited resources just waiting for exploitation. If the government foresaw this situation at the beginning of the decade this did not show up in its oil policy because we have continued to export large quantities of oil. At the end of the year ending on June 30 last, for example, we exported 60 per cent of our production to the United States.

When we in this party pointed out to the government that our oil supplies were running out, the government and the National Energy Board were prepared to accept the figures of the oil industry, which have now been proven to be inflated and unrealistic, and they continued to allow a large export of oil and gas to the United States.

Even today, faced by the fact that we shall find ourselves in a deficit position in the early 'eighties, exports are being phased out over a period of seven years. At the end of seven years there will not be very much to export, whether we follow a phasing out program or not.

I am at least happy tonight to know that the moment of truth has arrived—that the government is at last saying we need to do something about the conservation of energy. Most of the opportunities to do something about this have already gone by.

● (2100)

The minister is now bringing down a program, and I want to commend the minister for doing so in all sincerity. While it may be late, and while I feel that the proposals he is making are not adequate for the challenge, he is to be complimented on the fact that he is recognizing what many of his colleagues, and indeed what many governments in the world, have not recognized, namely, that we are heading into a completely new era in the world.

The age of affluence is almost over; the age of scarcity is about to begin. This is true, Madam Speaker, not just with reference to energy; it is also true with reference to many vital minerals, with reference to our forest resources, with reference to water, and, before the end of the century, with reference to food.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** In the last 100 years mankind has squandered—

**Mr. Marchand (Kamloops-Cariboo):** The white man has.

**Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I repeat, in the past 100 years mankind has squandered more of the earth's resources than has been squandered by the human race in all of the thousands of years prior thereto that he has inhabited this planet. This cannot continue. Unless we face up to the fact that we are moving