

Adjournment Debate

If that were not bad enough, even though these packages were put into shape too late to be sent out to arrive at their destinations by July 1, a courier service was employed and \$6,000 was spent to get these packages to their destinations. All of them arrived too late for their purpose.

When I asked the Minister of State for Mines last week whether she could justify this expense, she said that the cost of distribution was completely justified in the national interest. What kind of national interest is served by a clear waste of \$6,000? I would ask for a more complete answer. I would like to have the whole situation explained to me and to the taxpayers. I hope the Auditor General will consider the matter at some point.

● (2205)

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, responding to the Hon. Member for Cariboo-Chilcotin (Mr. Greenaway), I must say that his concern is one which ought to be placed before Parliament. Perhaps, as he said in his closing remarks, it ought to be reviewed by the Auditor General and we should have the pleasure of his comments at some point in time so that we can pursue the debate even further. However, let me just say a few words with regard to the national atlas of Canada to which the maps in question belong.

Canada has had a national atlas since 1906 and five editions have been produced over 75 years under both Liberal and Conservative governments. Granted, the Conservative government was only short-lived. These atlases contain maps which reflect and summarize our national resources, growth and achievement. They parallel the evolution of Canada since almost the beginning of this century. The latest Fifth edition is especially significant this year. It portrays Canada as we were in 1867, the complex evolution of our lands and territories and the make-up of the modern nation.

The medium of maps is a very effective way in which to inform Canadians about national development and to celebrate our progress as a nation since Confederation in this our constitutional year. For this reason, it was appropriate to make the maps available as near as possible to Canada Week.

Furthermore, while it is usually not very difficult for large newspapers and the major media organizations to obtain rapid access and awareness of new publications, that is not always so easy for the hundreds of relatively smaller weekly newspapers in this country. These grassroots community papers are read by many Canadians outside the major cities and they were our target group in this particular mail-out.

Technical difficulties in completing the maps reduced the time available for distribution by Canada Post. Courier service was chosen in order to ensure delivery as reasonably close as possible to Canada Week. The first Canadian to receive a copy of the maps was His Excellency the Governor General of Canada, and rightly so. A photograph of this presentation was provided with the package of maps for possible use by recipient newspapers thus informing their readers of the existence of the maps. The approximate cost of this was \$3,000.

In view of the significance of the subject matter of the maps and our wish to let all Canadians know about them, this was very low-cost advertising in the marketing of these national maps.

ENERGY—COLD LAKE PROJECT—LOAN MADE TO IMPERIAL OIL.
NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL

Mr. Jack Shields (Athabasca): Mr. Speaker, on June 30 I rose in the House and asked the then minister of energy, mines and resources the state of the \$40 million loan to Imperial Oil in an attempt to salvage the Cold Lake project. The Minister did advise the House that the loan was lost forever, that the loan would not have to be repaid on July 1 because there was the agreement in place that if the project did not proceed at Cold Lake by July 1, 1982 these funds would be lost forever.

I then asked the Minister if he did not now recognize that the most destructive piece of legislation to hit Canada in a number of years was the National Energy Program, that it was the single instrument that was deterring investment in Canada, particularly in the oil and gas sector. The Minister totally ignored that question; he did not answer.

● (2210)

I would like to point out something to the Parliamentary Secretary who has been chosen to answer this question. The investment in Alsands and the Cold Lake Project in northeastern Alberta, both giant research and development projects, particularly the one in Cold Lake where the very first commercial in situ extraction was to take place, was approximately \$10 billion, producing 140,000 barrels of oil a day. That would contribute approximately \$2 billion a year or more to Canada's balance of payments. Over 25 years it would have produced 1.3 to 1.5 billion barrels of oil and would have employed, at peak construction, 10,000 people. Ongoing employment for the life of the project would have been between 3,000 and 4,000 people; indirect employment would have been approximately 6,500 people; total engineering man-hours would have been approximately 50 million. Those figures apply to the one project only, the project at Cold Lake. Having regard to Alsands, which went down the tube, you could double all those figures. The amount of money to have been spent on facilities, which would have tremendous impact on the Canadian economy, was \$9 billion for one plant; on facilities, \$1 billion; infrastructure, another \$1 billion; sustaining investment for the life of the project, \$20 billion; operating expenses for the one project, and I am talking about Cold Lake, over its 25-year life, approximately \$60 billion. This is a total of \$90 billion of a direct investment into the economy of Canada at a time when jobs are needed and when the engines of the economy are winding down.

If you use the normal multiplier to determine the injection into the Canadian economy over that 25-year period, we would be looking at \$250 billion to \$350 billion as a result of the investment in that one plant at Cold Lake in northeastern Alberta. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker; \$500 billion to \$700