

—that it is difficult if the public gets different messages. So our conservation campaign concentrates on saying let's conserve oil. First get off oil. Then start to conserve—

Those statements are astonishing. One of the bureaucrats in the department said in response:

The feds have very little money yet they are going to spend it on substituting to another non-renewable fuel.

This document states that the off-oil policy is to get people off oil and onto natural gas, which is fine if we are prepared for that kind of program. The bureaucrat went on to say:

This will not result in much public confidence. But Clark doesn't know how to grapple with substitution to conservation and renewables.

The minister must get a hold on his department. If these kinds of statements are coming from the assistant deputy minister and are being contradicted by other officials in other sectors of the department, then how will this minister receive the proper advice which he needs from his department from time to time? I think he must get control of that department and tell them, as he told me in this House, that his policy is contrary to that and that he is concerned about conservation.

● (2205)

This government does not have a very good record in that area, Mr. Speaker. The report of the International Energy Agency of 1976 concluded that Canada's conservation record, over all, was one of the worst in the world. Our consumption of oil and natural gas per capita is the highest in the world. This waste of energy is costing us billions of dollars per year. If we could just get ourselves into a conservation frame of mind we could save hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil per day.

The Conservative party policy was to reduce consumption of oil and gas, or energy generally, by a 2 per cent factor per year but it seems as if the factor for this government as expressed in their document "Energy Conservation in Canada" is a 3.5 per cent increase per year. Between 1975 and 1990 the difference between the 2 per cent and 3.5 per cent factors would be from 482,000 to 600,000 barrels of oil per day. We just cannot overlook that, Mr. Speaker, and we must get serious about our conservation policy.

Through CHIP and by insulating the 70 per cent to 90 per cent of homes that are insulatable, by 1990 we could save another 104,000 barrels per day. There are many other ways that we could save on the energy that is necessary to meet our demands, through conservation programs in the coming years. I think the minister should answer my questions and tell us how serious he is about conservation.

Mr. Roy MacLaren (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the hon. member's support for the conservation efforts being made or planned by Canadians, including the federal government. There can be no question of the commitment of Canadians to conserving energy. The challenge is to find how all Canadians can be assisted in realizing that commitment.

A variety of steps are being taken to help Canadians achieve our conservation goals. The few minutes available to me this

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evening are obviously insufficient to do anything more than note a few of these, but if the hon. member would like more details I shall be pleased to provide them to him.

The hon. member has inquired about legislation to promote conservation. As was set out in the Speech from the Throne, legislation will be brought forward soon to set mandatory efficiency fuel standards for automobiles, and our highly successful Canadian Home Insulation Program, CHIP, will be further improved.

With regard to co-operation with the provinces in conservation measures, in recent weeks the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) signed two federal-provincial agreements on energy conservation with the province of Manitoba. Existing agreements with Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia have been extended until details are worked out of new agreements which meet the specific needs of those provinces. We have federal-provincial conservation and renewable agreements with all other provinces and territories, and expect that the total expenditure on them will reach well over \$200 million in the next four years, of which \$114 million will be from the federal treasury.

Co-operation in the private sector has been equally encouraging. Members may be aware that voluntary task forces of business, working with the government, have already made major progress and show every promise of achieving even greater energy savings in the months and years ahead.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I should perhaps add that the government itself has a vigorous energy conservation program which has achieved accumulated savings in the past four years of more than \$100 million. This is a remarkable achievement, helping to indicate to all Canadians what can be done in this vital area of energy conservation.

EMPLOYMENT—TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

Mr. Jim Hawkes (Calgary West): Mr. Speaker, I rise in this adjournment debate tonight because of increasing dissatisfaction with answers we tend to get from the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy). I hope his parliamentary secretary will be more forthcoming. We had an example of what I mean about eight o'clock this evening which showed the difficulty of getting the minister to respond to questions.

My initial question, and the source of much concern to me tonight, was asked in this House some two weeks ago. At that time I brought to the attention of the minister the fact that there is a morale problem in his department in western Canada. The minister has over 5,000 employees in the four western provinces.

● (2210)

I was informed about mid-April for the first time, and on subsequent occasions by two or three of the minister's officials in his department, that there was a morale problem that was, in part, a consequence of what was reported to be the minister's decision to hire a defeated Liberal candidate from the