V—GENERAL GOVERNMENT PURCHASES

The government purchases an enormous variety and quantity of articles over the course of a year. In some cases the government is a relatively small part of the market and in others it is a large part. The objective of the following procedures, most of which will be put into effect by the Department of Supply and Services, is to ensure that energy conservation is henceforth an explicit concern when placing government purchase orders. As necessary, the Treasury Board will issue procurement directives under its authority to administer real property and contracts.

1. The existing life-cycle costing program (PROC) will be extended as much as possible and explicit guidelines for measuring energy performance as a cost element will be provided to purchasing agents.

2. Energy conservation will henceforth be an acceptable interprogram cost. That is, allowance will be made over and above the PROC cost for special savings in energy consumption. Explicit guidelines for incorporating energy conservation will be provided to purchasing agents.

3. Under the recent cabinet decision on government purchases and design standards, it will be made known through regular channels that the government is interested in using its purchasing power to effect better design so far as energy conservation is concerned.

4. The Department of Supply and Services will work through its agency, the Canadian Government Specifications Board, to develop standards for products that will ensure efficient use of energy both in the fabrication of products and in their subsequent use.

VI—EMPLOYEE SERVICES

There is one final area of energy consumption in government that deserves mention at this time, that of employee services (such as cafeterias, canteens, parking and the like) where there are opportunities for conservation quite similar to those found in the individual home. These areas will be investigated and corrective action taken.

For example, it is surprising to note that some dispensing machines in government buildings still utilize non-returnable metal containers, which represent a waste of energy given the obvious alternatives of returnable bottles or even paper cups.

Another area of investigation will be improving energy use in the food and cafeteria services in government buildings. Hot water recovery schemes could be installed in washrooms and cafeterias.

As a final example, free parking for government employees clearly encourages the use of private automobiles as opposed to the use of public transit systems. The Treasury Board has already announced an end to free parking for civil servants in the downtown area of Ottawa. Beyond that step it seems reasonable that parking should be allocated on the basis of the number of regular riders in the automobiles rather than on the usual criteria of rank. Also the government could encourage car-pooling and aid in setting these up.

These are just a few of the possibilities for saving energy in government by making the services provided to employees more energy efficient. There are numerous other ways that have not been mentioned. Rather than enumerating them or putting forward a specific list here, a special committee will be created composed of representatives of several departments, including DPW which contracts for many of these services, and of the unions that represent government employees. This committee will be asked to prepare that list, to develop plans for effecting changes as rapidly as possible, and to report back on both within two months. In the meantime, individual departments have been requested to take many of the required actions on their own, for in many areas the nature and direction of changes needed are quite obvious.