

*Energy*

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

**Mr. Paul E. McRae (Fort William):** With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I will also ask a two-part question. In view of the impact of \$100 million plus investment in energy projects, which represents an increase from 15 to 30 per cent of the total capital for all construction, some scaling down of these intentions is necessary. The minister suggested one way of doing that is by reducing the demand. I would like to ask about another method, that is, the reduction of exports, not just of oil but of electricity. I am thinking of massive export projects such as the diversion of the Churchill river which was started by a Conservative government in Manitoba and, at the present time, is being vigorously pursued by an NDP government in Manitoba.

First, has the government any plans to curtail these exports? Second, is the government considering setting up a series of priorities so that energy projects of little merit, which are environmentally and socially unsound, or where the input and output could be as high as one to one, and some of the things the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain was talking about, where the ratio of input to outputs was very, very poor—

Some hon. Members: Order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I appreciate the hon. member has a two-part question. However, there are only five minutes left. It would be appreciated if the hon. member would complete his question.

**Mr. McRae:** Is the minister considering setting up a set of priorities so that some of these poorly designed projects will not be permitted?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** To deal with the first aspect of the question, Mr. Speaker, of course the export of electricity is, as with oil and natural gas, now covered by the jurisdiction of the National Energy Board which has to consider the same criteria as with the other two commodities. Over a period of time it has refused export permits, or has scaled down applications for export permits on projects which would be directed primarily at assisting further export rather than domestic need.

With regard specifically to the application of the Schreyer government for the export of electricity from Manitoba, or the application of the Davis government for the export of electricity from Ontario, the board has basically taken the stance it would not approve base load power, that is, the basic power that would be available for the system. However, if because of differences in climate, as is the case with regard to the proposed export of Manitoba power to states south of Manitoba, or in the case of Ontario Hydro which is basically using American coal for surplus Canadian capacity for export to the United States, under those circumstances in some cases of surplus it will permit export.

This really leads into the hon. member's second question, that is, should the federal government in an area where many of the utilities are provincially directed attempt by fiat to say a certain project should or should not go ahead? My position is that that is not the proper approach.

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

The capitalization problem of the energy industry is such that I would anticipate the Minister of Finance, other of my colleagues and myself, over a period of time would be seeking to gain from the provincial authorities some form of priorities of projects so there could be an interchange between provinces of power and a reduction in the demands in the capital market for projects.

Frankly, the reason for our interconnection and long distance transmission policy is that instead of having three neighbouring provinces all engaging in the construction of a capital project, each one of which will for the time being have some surplus to its needs, there should be an interconnection between the three so they can proceed on a consecutive basis and thereby avoid the bunching of capital projects.

**Mr. Lincoln M. Alexander (Hamilton West):** Mr. Speaker, I have just a short question. There is a phrase on page 22 that strikes me, whereby the minister indicated there will be training of energy inspectors for the residential and commercial sector. I just wonder whether we are talking about compulsory inspection. Can the minister elaborate on this area for us? Is a man's home no longer his castle? Is the minister talking about that sort of thing?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Without casting aspersions, Mr. Speaker, in the past the servicing of home heating units has been the responsibility of those who are selling the oil. There may be some suggestion that there is less of an incentive to have the very thorough furnace cleaning that would be possible if there were counsellors who could indicate the kind of adjustments that should and could be made to get better energy use. In a sample program carried out here in Ottawa it was found that, in about a thousand homes, with a more thorough servicing each year there could be a very dramatic improvement in the householders' home heating bills.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

### INDUSTRY—ELECTRONICS—LAYOFFS OF WORKERS CAUSED BY IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN TELEVISION SETS—GOVERNMENT ACTION

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, I know it will be of interest to members of this House to remember that on January 27 a delegation of workmen from the electrical industry of Canada, specifically from the International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, and locals of other electrical unions and the woodworkers' union, all affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress, came to Ottawa to meet with the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) to discuss a matter of very serious concern to them and, I think, to all Canadians. Briefly, that matter is the increasing number of layoffs and the diminution of employment