

Solar Energy

quence to the public purse and it could be corrected through the voting of a subsidy or a grant through estimates.

● (1710)

It is my view that, in accordance with Standing Order 62(2), such a bill should be accompanied by a recommendation from the Crown on introduction, particularly if I base myself on recent years' practices in the Canadian House of Commons which have given rise to strict interpretation of this rule. Technically, this bill is not properly before the House, but since a similar bill did pass this House in an earlier session and even reached the other place, I am inclined to allow debate on it at this stage, reserving the right to oppose its progress at another stage, while at the same time protecting the position of the Chair in such matters in the future.

Therefore, I will put the question to the House at this time with all these considerations.

Mr. Caccia: Mr. Speaker, at the outset I would like to thank the Chair for permitting this bill to proceed. I would also like to assure Your Honour that, after carefully studying your remarks, full attention will be given to them and the necessary adjustment in consultation with all parties concerned hopefully will be made at the committee stage.

Members of this House may recall the forerunner of this bill, Bill C-309, respecting the domestic and industrial use of solar energy. It was passed by this House in April, 1977. In the Senate, Bill C-309 received approval at second reading as well as an extensive hearing before the committee on banking, trade and commerce before it died on the order paper in October, 1977, at the end of the session. I would like to thank the senators, particularly the members of the Senate committee on banking, trade and commerce, for their advice on improving the technical aspects of this bill. I would also like to thank the law clerk and parliamentary counsel of the Senate, Mr. Ray du Plessis, for his assistance in redrafting the bill and enabling me to bring forward an improved version to the House today. It is entitled "An act to establish the Canadian Solar Energy Institute".

Before moving on to discuss this bill, I would also like to congratulate the government, and in particular the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie), for the practical programs he announced in Toronto in July 1978 to develop the potential of solar energy and produce energy from forest products and municipal waste. As part of this program of some \$380 million to span the next five years the minister launched the program of assistance to solar energy manufacturers. He also launched a program relating to the purchase and use of solar heating which will provide contracts worth a total of \$125 million to buy Canadian-made solar space and water heating equipment for new federal buildings; and a program having to do with low energy building design awards. In addition, federal funding worth \$114 million was set aside to share costs with the provinces and the private sector for demonstration projects in renewable energy and conservation. These programs to develop solar energy have encouraged the interest and participation of a large number of Canadians.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

Recent developments on the energy scene domestically and internationally make it all the more important for us to step up our efforts at turning to renewable sources of energy, and solar energy is one of them. This is the focus of Bill C-210, which addresses itself to the creation of a Canadian solar energy institute. The institute is needed. It would help to achieve the national solar energy objective for Canada as outlined this month in the report entitled "Energy Futures for Canadians" prepared for the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, which report proposed the following objective:

—supply at least five per cent of primary energy from renewables (other than hydro) by 2000, and 10 per cent by 2025—the equivalent of about 400,000 barrels of oil a day in the year 2000, and one million barrels a day by 2025.

The institute would help achieve this target, perhaps well in advance of the dates suggested in the report. How would this be achieved? The institute would direct and co-ordinate efforts related to the development of solar energy. At the federal level we have the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. As well we have the National Research Council leading in the research and development of solar technology, the demonstration of prototype solar systems, assistance to Canadian solar equipment manufacturers for industrial product development, and the development of tests and standards for solar equipment. In addition, the National Research Council provides general and technical information on solar energy.

The Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce has a major role to play in the development of a strong Canadian solar energy equipment industry. As part of its efforts to provide information and assistance to solar manufacturers this year, the department is planning a trade mission to help establish industrial co-operation between Canadian firms and their counterparts in Germany and France. The Department of Public Works is administering the program of assistance to solar energy manufacturers, and the program covering the purchase and use of solar heating equipment.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is administering the low energy building design awards. It is also supposed to set mortgage policy with regard to the use of solar systems. The Ministry of State for Science and Technology looks at solar energy from the point of view of science policy and industrial development. Agriculture Canada is sponsoring a study to find out the suitability of solar heating to dry grain in the prairie provinces and heat livestock barns, machinery sheds and greenhouses. These separate efforts are commendable. They are also the main reason why an institute is needed.

The role of the Canadian solar energy institute would be to bring these efforts together. It would be accountable to one minister, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Minister of State for Science and Technology. The institute would establish priorities and policies. It would provide the leadership and co-ordination needed to avoid duplication of effort. The various research, development and assistance programs now in existence would continue to go on in the departments, agencies and private organizations where they are best performed. If at a later date it was decided that solar development would better be handled by means of a Crown