

we would just take the car and run down. If you have forgotten something, you just run down to the store again.

Many times we can be accused of wastefulness. What do we do about it now? One of the ways a government can react to a situation like that is to discuss the issues with the people of Canada, but I suggest that without an increase in gas prices very little heed would be paid. I am not sure if this is the total answer in conservation, education, plus a demonstrable increase of bills both for fuel for homes, and fuel for cars. We talk about energy and the federal government's responsibility, but the provinces have a fairly large stake in the energy field because it comes under their constitutional responsibility. For example, hydro, if we are actually serious about conservation, why would hydro throughout the various provinces, say British Columbia, not give a lower rate for those people who consumed less hydro energy rather than giving a lower rate to the individual in his home the more he uses?

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Anderson: Is that really the way of telling the people of Canada that we have an energy shortage, a crisis? Governments are aware of it. That is fantastic. I can see industrial companies that spend thousands and thousands of dollars on energy perhaps they should be given some break because of the quantity of energy they are using. But I am talking about the homeowner. What incentive has been given to him to turn his lights off? To conserve on his electricity bill, when most companies say the more you use the better the rates. Why not the other way around? It is not only the responsibility of the federal government, I think it is the responsibility of all levels of government, and especially the people of Canada who must realize the importance of curtailing our energy uses otherwise the situation as far as employment is concerned will worsen, and certainly our balance of payments will not improve and thus affecting our standard of living.

It is a wrenching experience, and I know many people resist the prices of fuel oil and gasoline. They express the opinion it is not Arab oil, but oil from Alberta. Why do we have to equal the world price?

There is another side to it that whatever energy we obtain from programs such as Syncrude, the Mackenzie Delta, the Beaufort Sea, from the High Arctic, or if we bring natural gas from the maritimes, this is not going to be any cheaper than the world price of oil now. I understand the predictions are we are at the cheapest level that we will have in our history. Prices will continue to rise. The Arctic gas oil is our next source of energy. The Alberta fields will gradually diminish, and we will be going into programs such as those mentioned before, but it is not going to be inexpensive. To develop it it will be expensive. To transport it to southern Canada it will be expensive, and the people driving eight cylinder cars now, when they have no conception of energy, are going to be paying a much higher price in the future. I believe it is our job to make Canadians aware that with the non-renewable resources we are dealing with, we would be foolish to count upon foreign sources of oil and not develop our own.

Housing

In order to develop them, we have to pay a price and more money must be funnelled into the oil companies. I completely agree they must be regulated to make sure those extra profits do go into Canadian exploration. If it does not, tax it back. We will take it and use it some other way such as the insulation program. It is important that the concept of good guys and bad guys regarding this crisis be removed. Look at the problem and try to solve it to the best of our ability without playing games, whether it be federal, provincial or between political parties.

We have, through a variety of incentives in the research and development field, sources we can tap which we are not using now. I have been a strong proponent, as many members know, of the development of methanol to blend with gasoline. This program has been tried out in Germany using a fleet of one hundred cars over a period of a year and it has proved satisfactory. In fact from a pollution point of view it is extremely satisfactory. With all of the wood and wood products we have in Canada, we have a renewable resource that can be blended with gasoline with approximately 85 per cent gasoline to 15 per cent methanol that can be put into the tanks of cars of every Canadian. It will burn better and could be put into effect today. That would result in a 15 per cent saving immediately, and that 15 per cent would extend our resources over a longer period of time.

In the maritimes where they have the horrible problem with the spruce budworm and the forests that have been decimated, that could be converted into methanol. To convert methanol, the kind of wood you use does not matter. It does not matter whether it has worms in it or is diseased. It can be converted and burned in the tanks of cars in Canada.

● (1612)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his allotted time has expired. Nevertheless, he may continue with unanimous consent.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to participate in the debate on the motion presented by our housing critic. I see the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Anderson) is leaving. I want to commend him on some of his statements. He said that the government or the powers that be should not spend too much money on urban transportation and should try to keep the cities small. As a representative of a rural area, I cannot agree more. I go further and say they should blow up some of the roads and not let the people in and out of the cities. That might help the economy in some of the rural areas, certainly industry and housing.

The hon. member made a very good point when he stated that if industry gets into the rural areas, jobs and housing will follow. I wholeheartedly agree with that statement, but it is easier said than done.