

Energy

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Conservation is needed all over the world and always has been, but conservation is not fiddling around with more studies and more considerations. In simple English terms, conservation is the best use of resources. Canada has so much in the form of resources, both renewable and non-renewable, that we can bring these resources to bear and save and utilize them in the best way.

Sure we can reduce consumption by 1 per cent of the growth factor without even raising a drop of sweat, but here are the facts. If you look at the estimates and the public accounts of this country, we are spending money on finding new resources of a renewable sort which are non-polluting. On that we spend about \$200,000 a year. We will spend \$1 million telling the kids they better turn out the lights. By comparison, two years ago the American government announced a program of \$20 billion for ten years, or \$2 billion a year.

Looking at page five of this report, what are we going to do to match the American effort? We are going to "establish an office of energy research and development to review, assess and co-ordinate the activities of the federal government in energy research and development". Outside of the work we do in Atomic Energy, how big a staff will we need to supervise the expenditure of \$200,000 a year?

Again quoting from page five, the minister said we are going "to establish an office of energy conservation within my department to develop and recommend a program of energy conservation and to play a coordinating role among all institutions and authorities who would have responsibility in conservation efforts". As I said, Madam Speaker, this is a roaring farce.

I am not one to laud our neighbours to the south. In his opening remarks, the minister said that no one knew this shortage would develop two years ago. My goodness, is he not literate enough to know that the experts in our own departments of government and the American department of the Interior have been trying to warn the North American public for 22 years that we were running out? What do they teach in these universities now? They certainly do not teach them to read.

You can say what you like about the Americans, but when they saw this crisis, when the lights were turned out in New York in 1970 and the population was shooting up, they immediately started to work. They set up the team that had arranged for Americans to go around the world in space and go to the moon. This NASA group began a series of studies. The report I have is two years old. It already had definitive programs, times and costs—two years ago.

What the Americans are worried about today is not setting up a study. What they are worrying about is that some of these programs they are looking at mean high cost energy for the nation. They have had to change their foreign policy in the past week. Instead of going out and trying to persuade the nations of the world to force the Arabs to accept low prices for oil on world markets, they are asking their allies to join in a program to get a high world price, to ensure that if they go into the programs of oil development which they are considering to give them security, they will not be undercut by a drop in world prices.

[Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain).]

What I am trying to say is elementary. As the minister said, we have the fortune and good luck of having abundant resources. We have had no opportunity to squander our resources to the extent our neighbours to the south have done. We have had to sit here for 50 years, watch them squander their resources and bar our resources from their doors. Now we have the resources. It is a question of making the best use of them.

There are many ways to save and conserve, in the sense the minister was talking about. He is going to reduce the speed of federal vehicles to 55 miles per hour and will ask the provinces to do the same with regard to provincial vehicles. That will save. However, the Americans now have that in effect. I am simply pointing out that all these methods of saving could have been in place all this time.

I assure the House that, in my judgment, if the government makes it plain by its leadership that it wants us to save, people will save. They will co-operate. All I say to the government is, let's get on with it.

The minister had the colossal gall to say that his second point of conservation is consultation with the provinces. My God, if any person ever deliberately tried to start a war with the blue-eyed Arabs of Alberta, this is the minister. You never start a war with the guy who has it. Well, I won't continue with that. All I am pointing out is that we, as a people, will co-operate with government at the federal level or the provincial level in any type of reduction. We can do this by a one per cent reduction in demand growth.

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I should like to conclude my remarks on this point by saying that merely by utilizing the wastes that are around us polluting the air and the ground, we would achieve a reduction in the demand factor in the order of 10 to 15 per cent, and we would make money to boot. Every highrise in this country should recycle its water, take out the solid material and thus derive enough energy to heat the place in winter and cool it in summer. The experimental evidence is there; the federal taxpayer pays the cost of doing this research.

It is plain from this statement that whatever public relations firm was hired to write it doesn't know what is going on. There is enough waste from our cities, our farms and our forests to provide, on a continuing basis, all the energy the country needs. Remember that only 40 per cent of a tree is used as a result of our wasteful forestry methods today. But enough of that.

Consider the minister's statement about having to build a fiscal structure. He says:

We have to build a fiscal structure which would assure an equitable distribution of revenues among producers, consumers and governments and which would leave the industry sufficient incentive to continue the exploration and development activities necessary to maintain Canadian self-reliance in energy.

On the very day the minister reads that statement this House is considering a budget which, with the provincial claims, adds to the tax liability of the resource industries a load of 90 to 120 per cent on their profits. What hypocrisy! As to the deal announced the other day with Syncrude, going into a marginal set-up on an old-fashioned investment basis, nothing is left for the owners of the resource at all. Even the companies are risking their shirts, not to