

I would like to ask the minister to become specific for a moment. In the 1976 energy conservation program a number of objectives were defined which Dr. Brooks has properly pointed out have not been acted upon. He lists the lack of monitoring or enforcement of provisions for automobile mileage standards. He points out that in 15 months there have been no appliance efficiency standards, and no labelling plans have been announced. He asks where the minister's proposed studies on energy efficiency for air and public transit have gone. The House of Commons would like to have answers to those specific questions, and it would like to know why in 15 months the minister has not moved on those specific priorities spelled out in his own policy.

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, it is quite untrue to suggest that nothing is happening with respect to mileage standards. The government made it very clear that it has adopted a standard of roughly 24 miles per gallon by 1980. We have every reason to believe that that will be reached. The automobile manufacturing companies are co-operating. By 1985 that mileage standard on a fleet average will be about 33 miles to the gallon, representing in over-all terms quite an increased efficiency, almost double the efficiency we had a year ago. In other words, we will get twice as many miles per gallon of gas or we will use half as much gas to go the same distance. That policy is in place, so to suggest that the government has not acted on that is quite erroneous.

With respect to the question of labelling, that policy is also well on the way. The Leader of the Opposition might like to address a question to the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, whose department is responsible for this aspect of the program.

Similarly, action has been taken with respect to insulation standards. That has been discussed. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition would be the first to criticize the government if we produced a set of standards through the National Research Council which had not first been discussed fully and thoroughly with the provinces and gained their acceptance for them. That process has been going on and I think it will be possible to announce new standards within a week or two. Similarly, we have taken action in the area of home insulation in the maritimes. I think it is wrong of the Leader of the Opposition to suggest there is no sense of urgency and that this government has not taken action in the area of energy conservation.

● (1420)

SUGGESTED EXTENSION OF HOME INSULATION PROGRAM AS MEANS OF CONSERVATION

Mr. Joe Clark (Leader of the Opposition): What the minister has suggested is that after waiting 15 months we should wait another week because they might have an announcement to make then. Regarding the home insulation program may I ask the minister if he has given consideration to phasing in an extension of that program outside of the two—and I emphasize two—provinces in Atlantic Canada where there is now a program in place? In particular is he following the suggestion

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of my colleague, the hon. member for St. John's West, that priority should be given to phasing in that insulation program in high unemployment areas of the country?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I realize the Leader of the Opposition has been out of the House a good deal recently. I realize he has had other things on his mind and has not been present for the question period. If he had been in the House over the last month he would realize that question has been put to me and I have answered it on at least three occasions.

Mr. Clark: Mr. Speaker, for the edification of those Canadians in high unemployment areas who might benefit from any phase-in program, could the minister bring himself to answer the question once again, concretely?

Mr. Gillespie: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Leader of the Opposition would read *Hansard*—concretely.

ALLEGED MEMORANDUM TO CABINET SUGGESTING CONSERVATION PROGRAM WOULD ELIMINATE NEED FOR FRONTIER EXPLORATION FOR OIL AND GAS

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Mr. Speaker, even if the hon. minister is in the House, he is really out of it. I have a supplementary question for the minister. Did members of the staff of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources prepare a memorandum which went to Cabinet and which argued that a sound energy conservation program could eliminate the need for a risky exploration for oil and gas on Canada's frontiers and which claimed that an efficiency oriented program could cut the growth of energy demand in half between now and the year 2000? Did such a memorandum go to Cabinet and is it not a fact that Cabinet rejected the suggestion?

Hon. Alastair Gillespie (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows that ministers are not in a position to discuss or comment upon documents that have come before Cabinet. I want to make the point that I would hope the people in my department would be putting such position papers together for the consideration of officials of the department and for my consideration. I think that kind of activity is very important.

EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT'S "SAVE-10" PROGRAM

Mr. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): A further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. To be more specific, the minister promised on behalf of the government last year that the government would lead by example with a "Save-10" program to reduce energy consumption of government by 10 per cent and to hold it at that level for ten years. We are now in the middle of 1977 and we still see ministers going around in gargantuan gas guzzling cars which are also air conditioned. Would the minister tell the House whether he has achieved the "Save-10" target of last year and if the target is likely to be