

has produced one of the best windmills in the world, heat pumps or even digesters in the biomass industry, most of the technology which is now available comes from either the United States or Europe.

As I stated before, there is a need for a group of Canadian people, hopefully a group such as I outlined in this bill, to set out the design standards, production standards and construction standards for the technologies which we now import to prove to our consumers that such devices will work and do have a long life. Most renewable energy forms should have a lifespan of some 20 years in order for them to be placed in an operation. Consumer protection in the field of renewable technologies would be ensured by this bill. Not only would the consumer have greater confidence in his product, but he would also be able to instal and utilize such devices without a great deal of technical or mechanical expertise.

I have also envisioned that this corporation could make use of engineers across Canada. For example, in the budget of last December reference was first made to the use of agricultural stills. We were amazed to learn that an entrepreneur from Montana had come up into the southern portions of the prairie provinces to market a device which he said would work. By putting small advertisements in local newspapers this man attracted crowds of 300 to 500 farmers in small communities as he explained the operation of the still and how it would create, from wheat and straw and other products normally grown on the farm, alcohol which could be used in tractors, cars and homes. This shows that there is an interest. Surely, if the interest is there, our government, through a corporation such as the one I described, could use a group of engineering experts versed in the operation of such technologies to move from community to community across Canada explaining the technologies which are now available and how individuals with very little engineering expertise could, in fact, put these devices to work for themselves if they are given the proper guidance and information.

For example, there are many engineers in the PFRA who are not being fully utilized in their areas throughout western Canada. These people could be used to disseminate this kind of information. If the government would see in their wisdom the advantages of offering a tax credit in the upcoming budget to individuals for the placement of renewable technologies in their homes, this group of engineers could also, while spreading this information, check on the claimants who have installed renewable technology devices in their homes or places of business and give them advice on whether the engineering requirements have been met.

The United States, which is ahead of us in this field by far, is using a toll-free Zenith number in each state. Persons who have an interest in placing, for example, solar heating hardware in their homes can phone this toll-free number and be immediately provided by experts with information, bibliographies of books which are available in local libraries, and any other advice that is available on the particular form of renewable energy about which they are asking. The United States has moved quickly to provide the kinds of information which

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are not available at the present time in Canada. Through this corporation such a system could be set up under clause 4(d) of the bill because it authorizes the renewable energy corporation to publish information relating to the uses and applications of renewable energy technologies. This clause was designed to ensure that the need for public information is met.

The last function of the corporation would be to co-ordinate further research in the areas of renewable energy-producing devices and inventions. Many Canadians are putting their minds to work and are trying to come up with new ways of using the energy in the sun, the ground, in water, and with machines. Such people are always coming to their members of Parliament and to government with new devices that are capable of doing such and such, but in many cases they are not given an ear and are turned away. As a result, we lose the value of that particular piece of technology. I can see this corporation playing a very important role in this area. It could look at new inventions and, as well, co-ordinate the research dollars which are made available by governments, foundations and large companies. I believe that a central body such as this corporation is necessary to co-ordinate all this information.

Those are my explanations as to why I placed each of the clauses in the bill. I would like to end this portion of my speech with a quote from the book "The Challenge of Man's Future", which was written by Harrison Brown:

Consumption of the earth's stores of fossil fuels has barely started, yet already we can see the end. In a length of time which is extremely short when compared with the length of time during which man has inhabited the earth, fossil fuels will have been discovered, utilized, and completely consumed.

That is very likely true, but the sun, wind, and waste materials from agricultural products and trees will be with us into perpetuity. It shows how important it is for us to move quickly toward the use of renewable energy forms.

I would like to end my speech by saying that, for the first time in history, the government in its budget of last December recognized that individuals, not just corporations, should have a tax break if they place in their businesses or their homes a heat exchanger or heat exchanger material. It was the first time in history that this type of offer had been made to Canadian citizens. The budget papers and the notices of ways and means motions stated very clearly under energy conservation equipment that there would be a write-off for district heating systems, solar heating systems on the new buildings, small-scale hydroelectric projects, heat recovery systems including heat exchange material and equipment and auxiliary components which are used to conserve energy. That opens up to all Canadians the use of this device of a tax write-off in order to place these in their homes and certainly in businesses. I have checked with the department and it seems that the regulations have finally been written after this long time, because in the budget that he sneaked into the Speech from the Throne, the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) said he would continue with that initiative.

● (1720)

**Mr. Paproski:** They listened to you.