

● (1200)

I also want to tell the hon. member that the benefits in the north under our program are going to go to Canadian companies, not to multinationals. As a matter of fact, those which will be 75 per cent Canadian-owned will get tremendous benefits compared to the multinationals that are working in the area. I suggest to my hon. friend that he read "The National Energy Program", and once he has read it he will probably not rise to ask such misinformed questions.

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### NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

#### INQUIRY RESPECTING AVAILABILITY OF DETAILS TO HOME OWNERS

**Mr. Maurice Foster (Algoma):** Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In view of the tremendous interest generated in the country by the national energy program, and especially the policy to provide grants of up to \$800 to convert oil furnaces to natural gas, electricity or renewable energy sources, can the minister say when the details of this program will be spelled out so that home owners will be able to take maximum advantage of this imaginative program?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, there are discussions taking place with provincial governments at the present time. Some of those discussions have been going on for several weeks. I hope we will arrive at arrangements with all provinces very soon as to how the program will be worked out, especially concerning conversion to electricity.

As far as conversion to gas is concerned, it is quite clear that this program will be available to every house converting from oil to gas or to other forms of energy, such as wood. Commencing October 28 we are asking residents of the various provinces to keep their receipts. However, the details of the program have not been completely worked out with the provinces as yet, but if residents keep their receipts we will make sure that as soon as the application forms are available they will be able to apply and get the information.

#### IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE USE OF PROGRAM

**Mr. G. M. Gurbini (Bruce-Grey):** Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; it is actually supplementary to the question just posed. As well as waiting for the details which the minister is talking about in discussions with the provinces, there are two special parts to that program which people need to understand before they can take any advantage of it at all. First, so that people can start conversions now and take advantage of the program, can he tell us whether or not there will be an opportunity for people to make partial use of that program now and defer some of it to future years? Furnaces converted to gas do not make a lot of sense when we know that a year or

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two down the road there will be more efficient furnaces available. Maybe burner replacement is appropriate now.

Second, if a person just uses a heater—in other words, he only partially converts his home to electricity and so has an oil furnace as well—will this also qualify under the program?

Finally, I presume the minister of finance of Ontario has read the minister's energy program and the recently released budget papers, but he has asked for special consideration for the people of Ontario who are faced with increasing costs for heating oil this winter. Is the minister considering a special program as well at the present time?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I am not in a position immediately to answer all the questions raised by the hon. member. As to the first two questions, I will inquire as to the state of discussions with the various provinces to find out whether the view of the provinces is that we could go for such partial conversion as the hon. member has mentioned, and I will be very happy to give him an answer some time next week.

As far as the latter part of the hon. member's question is concerned, we do not foresee any special program in addition to those we have announced in the budget.

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### ENERGY

#### PROPOSED SHARED COST PROGRAM TO MEET RISING ENERGY COSTS

**Hon. Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Madam Speaker, I have a supplementary question for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. It concerns a contradiction which appears to exist between himself and the Minister of Finance over the question of additional assistance to low-income families hit by rising home heating costs. On November 4 when I asked the Minister of Finance whether or not there would be support for low-income families who would be further burdened by increases in the cost of home heating fuel, he said as reported in *Hansard* at page 4405:

We will do our part in co-operation with provincial governments, which have to take the initiative in the first instance. If the hon. member is concerned, she might join with the rest of us in asking various provinces to take a more accommodating attitude toward these particular groups.

"These particular groups" refers to low-income groups. The Minister of Finance has said that if a province would come forward with an initiative, the federal government would be prepared to respond. The Ontario government has done that. Is the minister of energy now about to contradict the position taken by his colleague, or will he announce this morning that he will indeed enter into the shared cost program which the government of Ontario has proposed?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, there is absolutely no contradiction between what I said earlier and what the Minister of