

going on in my constituency where a number of people are heating their homes using solar panels, others are using wind energy and some are using a combination of both. The government of Saskatchewan is financing construction of a house in which all the heating, lighting, and electrical appliances are powered by solar energy. This experiment will be very useful.

I have seen solar energy programs in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, and particularly in Australia, which has made great strides in developing solar panels. So far, however, we have only touched on the fringe of this subject.

We could do several things, one of which is mentioned in this motion. The government, through CMHC or any other mechanism it wants to use, could provide financial incentives for people building houses, and particularly for developers, to instal solar energy units in one form or another. That would give us an opportunity to see how they work, to compare costs, and to get people accustomed to them.

The main problem, however, is that we have not yet embarked upon a massive research and development program to produce an economic unit that would provide solar energy at a relatively low cost. The units which I saw are in Australia and which were being sold at agricultural fairs were relatively cheap by comparison to any solar panels that we buy here, but they were still fairly expensive.

● (1722)

I am convinced that if the government were prepared through the National Research Council and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources to call in the whole of the electrical industry in this country and say to them, "Let us put on a massive program to produce a solar energy unit that will be the cheapest in the world", it could be done. Of course, it will cost money. But it will cost a great deal less than it will cost if we wait until the time comes when we do not have sufficient energy from other sources or if we wait until some major power, such as the United States, Japan or West Germany develops cheap solar energy and we have to pay a very high price for it.

I am sure that by 1990 there will be a \$1 billion solar energy industry available to any country that has the foresight to establish the production of an economic solar unit. Canada can be the country, because there are many nations in the world which have warm climates and lots of sunlight, but they have no oil, no coal, and no gas. These countries do not have the technical know-how or research facilities to produce solar units themselves, but they would be prepared to purchase them if they could obtain them at reasonable prices from a country such as Canada.

I notice that the United States is already moving rapidly into this field. I am afraid that we will miss the boat. I hope that those of us who are supporting this motion, and I think we all are, will press the government to go one step further and not only provide financial incentives for the consumer to put in solar units but also spend the necessary money for research and development so that there are cheap solar units which we can purchase, manufacture, and export to other countries.

### *Use of Solar Energy*

Sometimes we tend to spend money protecting and subsidizing industries which are on their way out. We ought to be spending money to develop industries which are in their infancy and which have a tremendous potential for the future. In my opinion, the solar energy industry is one where an investment by Canada at the present time would bring great benefits in the future, not only for our own people but for the export trade which we could develop.

● (1732)

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I have a great deal of interest in the motion put forward by the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) in which he invites the House to tell the government that it should, and I quote:

Consider the advisability of directing the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to make appropriate changes in its lending policy regulations to provide incentives to builders and developers who incorporate in their building plans the use of passive solar energy designs and/or solar energy systems for space and water heating.

Mr. Speaker, the motion is worthwhile. It urges the management of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to devise plans enabling those who are involved in housing construction to provide for the possible uses of solar energy to heat buildings, houses and the water used by the people who live there. It seems to me that worth-while though it may be that motion places parliament in an inferior position towards the Crown corporation. The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is a Crown corporation which receives the funds the Canadian parliament agrees to allocate to it no matter how many millions are involved and that corporation administers those funds. The corporation sets up regulations concerning borrowers, those who want to benefit from the National Housing Act and build homes in which Canadian families can live decently.

Mr. Speaker, we should not expect the impossible from management. They should not be put in a position where the population would see the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation as being the Canadian parliament. Yet the fact is that this is pretty much the intent of the motion. Mr. Speaker, if we really want our Crown corporations to perform well, they should not be put into some kind of a yoke. I for one am quite in favour of using solar energy. For several years I have been a supporter of the possibility of using solar energy for heating houses and domestic water.

Mr. Speaker, I even attended once in an African country a conference of the Association of French-speaking parliamentarians. I remember how glad and pleased my colleague the hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine (Mr. Béchard) and I were on that occasion to consider seriously for hours on end the possible ways and means to tap, collect and make better use of these sources of energy. The hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine has just suggested something to me. Collect the energy and use it to meet the needs of