

he ascertain whether the government has any intention of honouring the promises of three successive ministers of transport to undertake substantial work to expand the facilities at Regina Airport and, also, whether the so-called abbreviated proposal now before Treasury Board is considered an interim or stop-gap measure, or is it the ultimate or maximum that southern Saskatchewan can expect?

Senator Steuart: Hear, hear.

Senator Asselin: Now it is your turn, Senator Steuart.

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, the Minister of Transport has developed a program to provide airport facilities in this country second to none. I must, however, take as notice the honourable senator's question because I do not have the information regarding the schedule of the improvements at the present time.

Senator Asselin: Senator Steuart has a supplementary.

ENERGY

NUCLEAR ENERGY—INTERDEPARTMENTAL REPORT

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): Honourable senators, last evening Senator Murray raised a question concerning what he referred to as an inter-departmental report on nuclear development which, he said, had been leaked to the press or to someone.

I contacted the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and they confirmed that they have completed the first draft of the nuclear industry review which is dated April 27, 1981. This draft has been distributed to various departments for their comment. Mr. Lalonde has not officially seen the report and, of course, would not agree to table it, even though parts of it have been leaked. Of course, we are not sure that it is a leak because such documents can never be confirmed as authentic. I am informed that officials of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources are drafting a report on the nuclear industry. My colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, does not expect to see a copy of this report until it has been completed. We would not, of course, table a report that has not been finalized and seen by the minister responsible.

● (1425)

EFFECT OF NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

Hon. H. A. Olson (Minister of State for Economic Development): I have one other delayed answer in response to a question raised on May 20 by Senator Balfour which concerns the value of drilling equipment that has been exported from Canada.

According to Statistics Canada, in the first four months of 1981 equipment to the value of \$97 million has been exported from Canada under the classification: "Earth drilling, earth boring and related machinery and parts not otherwise specified". That has to be compared with total exports of such equipment during the calendar year 1980 worth \$94.8 million.

While the greatest percentage of equipment contained under this heading would be utilized in petroleum-related drilling, non-petroleum drilling equipment—that is, equipment used for drilling water wells—would also be included in this grouping. Of this \$97 million-worth of exports, over \$78 million-worth was exported to the United States, with the remainder destined elsewhere, including Australia and Ethiopia.

To attribute this increase in the export of this domestic drilling equipment solely to the National Energy Program would be inaccurate. The excess of the natural gas supply over demand in this country has resulted in a downturn in the drilling industry which some industry spokesmen have ascribed to the National Energy Program. However, long before the National Energy Program was unveiled, the *Oil and Gas Journal* quoted the executive director of the Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors, who predicted that no more than 5,000 wells will be drilled in Canada in 1981 compared with 8,300 last year. That is a drop of 40 per cent, and that has nothing to do with the federal government's National Energy Program.

CROWN CORPORATIONS

CANERTECH—MANDATE

Hon. Raymond J. Perrault (Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, on May 20, Senator Sherwood asked why Canertech had not been given a precise mandate to assign budget priority to the pursuit of the most environmentally attractive alternative technologies.

I should like to refer to the remarks made by the Honourable Marc Lalonde on the occasion of the opening of the Canertech office in Winnipeg on May 12. At that time, he clearly stated that Canertech's mandate is:

—the commercialization of products and processes in conservation and renewable energy technologies.

Canertech Canada will concentrate on supporting commercial production of renewable energy and conservation technology, and it will reinforce the work of Canadian businesses engaged in this field by joint ventures and equity investments to fill the so-called "risk capital gap" and by offering other assistance in commercialization and marketing. This crown corporation may also enter into shared ventures with energy corporations established by provincial governments, or it may undertake commercial production on its own. Wherever necessary, the corporation will carry out research, development and demonstrations.

I think that the federal government's position relative to environmental protection is very well known and, in this regard, Canertech will place particular emphasis on such environmentally compatible projects as biomass energy conversion technology, and solar and wind energy systems.

May I say, additionally, honourable senators, that very soon dramatic new evidence will be presented to the Canadian people of the determination of this government to promote and to develop various forms of alternative energy in this country.