

*Oral Questions***NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM**

P.E.I. CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AGREEMENT

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. On page 85 of the National Energy Program it states very clearly and categorically the following:

In addition to expanded national renewables programs, extension of the P.E.I. Conservation and Renewable Energy Agreement will be undertaken, at a four-year cost of over \$9 million.

In view of this firm commitment in black and white in the National Energy Program, how can the minister explain the fact that he has now announced to his counterpart in Prince Edward Island, the Hon. Barry Clark, that the agreement to which I have referred is to be scrapped and not renewed?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, under this agreement the government of Prince Edward Island has been extremely delinquent in terms of providing its own share of 20 per cent. As a matter of fact, at the present time the government of Prince Edward Island owes \$1.8 million as its contribution under the program.

In conversations I have had with the energy minister in Prince Edward Island I have told him that I was ready to extend the program for a few months in order to ensure that all commitments which had been made under the previous program would be met, and also in order to allow time for the government of Prince Edward Island finally to make its own contribution under this program.

This particular program was obviously creating financial difficulties for the government of Prince Edward Island. Consequently, in the future the national government will pay the same amount, which was mentioned in the National Energy Program, but the sum will be paid by the national government directly without waiting for the provincial contribution. This will leave the provincial government free to spend whatever it wants in this regard, but the federal government contribution will be paid to the citizens of Prince Edward Island directly.

FORM OF PAYMENT TO ISLANDERS

Mr. Tom McMillan (Hillsborough): Madam Speaker, in light of what the minister has just said, I have two questions. Is the minister saying that there is a firm commitment now that the federal government will be paying to the people of Prince Edward Island a total of \$9 million over a period of four years, albeit in a different form than that referred to in the National Energy Program, and if so, in what form will those payments be made? What sort of programs can the minister tell islanders they can count on, in view of the fact that in the last year energy costs in Prince Edward Island have soared 33 per cent over the previous year, compared with 28.5 per cent in the country as a whole?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, of this \$9 million 80 per cent was to come from the national government and 20 per cent from the government of Prince Edward Island. The commitment is that the federal government's 80 per cent share will be paid to the citizens of Prince Edward Island. As for the other 20 per cent, it is up to the government of Prince Edward Island to do whatever it wishes. Indeed, I hope it will pay that amount to the citizens of Prince Edward Island. But looking at the past experience over the last couple of years I must say that I am rather doubtful, or skeptical, as to whether that share will be paid. As far as the national government is concerned, we will pay our full share under this program over the next four years. This share will go to energy conservation and renewable forms of energy, as it did before. We will observe our commitment completely.

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CORPORATE AFFAIRS

REPORT OF INQUIRY INTO PETROLEUM INDUSTRY—PRIVATE PUBLISHING VERSION

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Supply and Services. I am holding up the Bertrand report published by the minister's department, entitled "The State of Competition in the Canadian Petroleum Industry", which sells for \$70—and it weighs about a ton. In my other hand I have the James Lorimer version published by Lorimer and Company, which costs \$15 and it can be carried around by you on your bicycle, and you can read it when you wish. The minister's lawyers are trying to have the Lorimer version taken off the book stands, especially in Toronto. As I understand it, Lorimer and Company have offered 8 per cent royalties. I would ask the minister if he is prepared to enter into negotiations in good faith with Lorimer and Company, so that this report can be distributed widely, or does he not want this particular easy version of the report to be distributed?

● (1200)

Hon. J.-J. Blais (Minister of Supply and Services): Madam Speaker, I would call to the attention of the hon. member that the heavier report that is available contains an abbreviated summary of the contents of the report. I would suggest that he could read that if he does not have time to go through the total report. The other matter involving the James Lorimer Publishing Company is sub judice, so I will not make any comment at this time.

Mr. Waddell: Madam Speaker, I would hope that the minister would try to settle this matter so that the book can be distributed.