

paper. In so doing I would have recognized that this subject was placed on the order paper for debate this afternoon and I might have better prepared myself. I offer the most sincere compliments to the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) for his work, as he has already been complimented by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles).

I will try briefly to give you some reasons why all parties in this House should support this motion. I would hope that an interdepartmental task force at the most senior level will be struck. I believe that unless immediate action is taken Canada is going to lose a multibillion dollar industry in the next five years.

I might mention that CMHC has given approval in principle to the use of hot water solar panels and I think also space heating solar panels. I would add by way of example that in Australia, if my recollection is correct, one out of every two homes now makes use of solar panels for heating and hot water, and three out of every four homes under construction are making use of that type of equipment.

Other members have mentioned that in the United States there is already considerable support by the U.S. government for a solar panel industry, a decision which I believe we will be facing in Canada in the next five to 10 years. According to my recollection, it is expected that the next sharp and dramatic increase in Arab oil prices will be in 1982 or 1983, about five years from now. I believe the figures indicate it will be something in the order of an average annual increase of 15 per cent in the cost of imported oil. Again based on my recollection—I apologize if these figures are not exact but they are pretty close—it is expected that the cost of electricity will increase by about 12 to 14 per cent per annum in the foreseeable future. The cost of gas will increase by about 11 to 12 per cent per annum.

We are looking at a situation which right now CMHC considers to be profitable in terms of the cost of installation of solar panels, in particular solar hot water heating. From the point of view of the homeowner it will make it worth-while to invest approximately \$2,000, resulting in his electricity or oil costs reducing accordingly over the length of his mortgage commitment, with the expectation that in approximately seven to ten years the cost of installation would be amortized by the reduction in the cost of oil and electricity for heating purposes.

We are looking therefore at a new utility, a somewhat similar historical development to the light, heat and power industry throughout the modern world. The question is what role Canada will play in the development of a new utility in Canada. In addition, it could include the question of capacity. It has the possibility of becoming a gigantic multibillion dollar export industry.

These solar panels are useful in a wide variety of climates all around the world. It is interesting to note in our temperate zone that the most successful and the most technologically perfect solar panel systems have been manufactured. When I say in the temperate zone, that includes the most populated part of Canada. Unfortunately there is virtually no manufacturing at all of solar panels in our nation.

### *Use of Solar Energy*

There is a significant solar panel industry in the United States. In some cases it is on a sort of a cottage industry basis, and in other cases it is on a fully automated basis. In five years we are going to be buying our solar panels, which are made of copper, and in many cases Canadian copper, and glass and aluminum, in many cases Canadian aluminum, from the United States and from Exxon. These products will have to be purchased there unless we have the brains now to ensure that this industry is developed and that it will be a profitable and necessary industry. This should be the result in view of the increasing cost of other forms of energy.

I reiterate my compliments to the hon. member for Davenport for his recommendation that this kind of information be considered by the government. I hope this motion of the hon. member will be used by the government as an opportunity to review seriously and extensively the entire subject of solar heating. Canada should involve itself in this industry before we become, as we have with so many other things, nothing more than net importers of the finished product, even though in some cases the basic resources of those products are of Canadian origin.

If we required that every federal government building built from now on should utilize solar panels for its hot water heating requirements, it would create sufficient industry in this country to produce the resources, to produce technological expertise, to produce manufacturing expertise and to give us an industrial base to become one of the major exporters in the world.

Backbenchers on this side of the House are saying in a most courteous way that someone on our side is asleep at the switch. I would find it ironic in the extreme if members of the Conservative party were to talk out this motion.

**Mr. J. R. Ellis (Hastings):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Lachine-Lakeshore (Mr. Blaker) may find it ironic, but I have to tell him that every member who puts forward a motion or a private member's bill from this side of the House has the same expectation as the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia), and to a man they are talked out. I intend to talk it out. I hope to do so in a manner that will indicate some support for the general principle of the motion, but I have some criticism of the manner in which this motion was presented.

The motion that the hon. member for Davenport presented, as the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) indicated, is very narrow. In my opinion it is much too narrow. It reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should 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.

That is what it says, Mr. Speaker. The hon. member said he intended that the extra cost of passive solar energy systems would be added to the allowable mortgage amount. In other words, there was not any real incentive, because the mortgage would be bigger to carry the extra cost.