

of a "Canadian package" of energy saving options for automobiles.

Eighth, there are, as I noted earlier, a number of important measures that provincial and municipal governments can undertake which include, among others, the structure of urban parking fees; modified utility rate structures; flexible working hours; regulation of outdoor lighting; automobile licence fees, and speed limits.

These, in brief, are our proposals for conservation measures which merit examination and consideration because they can have an immediate impact on energy consumption. We do not present these proposals as a totally comprehensive program. For one thing, among those listed in the table, there will be changes, additions and, undoubtedly, some will in due course have to be rejected. For another, there are many areas, such as district heating and improved recycling, about which much information has been accumulated but on which some further analysis is necessary before specific applications or demonstration projects can be recommended. On both counts I invite the constructive comments of all Canadians who are concerned with conserving our valuable energy resources and who have further suggestions for consideration.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, what of the longer term future? I have in the first four phases of the energy conservation program addressed myself to measures and proposals which are concerned exclusively with the elimination of waste and inefficiency. I have included no action or proposal which I think would have substantial structural effect upon the economy or upon our current standards of living.

We have begun, and it is not too soon, thinking about the longer term implications of continued growth in all forms of consumption, energy among them, and to develop credible paths for the future that are consistent with changed world conditions as we will find them in the last quarter of the twentieth century. That is why, beyond the immediate measures outlined above, we shall be assessing programs which imply more fundamental structural changes in the Canadian economy and society. We will be investigating, in detail, the relationships among energy consumption, economic growth, jobs, environment, and quality of life. We will be devising and testing mechanisms that can bring about a phased transition from a society based, as we are today, on production and consumption to one based more on services, from an economy obsessed with quantity to one that places a premium on quality, from a society founded on competition to one based more on sharing and compassion.

Mr. Nystrom: Socialist.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The transition to what some have called the conserver society—

An hon. Member: From the just society.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):—will be a profound challenge to us as a nation and a people, but it is a challenge that we cannot ignore. The domestic resource picture, changing economic realities, new international relationships, and our responsibilities not only to our children but

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to our fellow man around the world today all dictate that we accept the challenge.

As the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has noted, and I quote:

To continue our present rate of consumption would be to deplete in short order the heritage of countless centuries, to squander mankind's only legacy on this small and finite planet. What we face now is not deprivation, but the challenge of sharing. We need not do without, but we must be good stewards of what we have. To ensure nature's continued bounty, we are not asked to suffer, but we are asked to be reasonable.

May I thank the House, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to make this statement this evening, and thank hon. members for their very sympathetic and careful attention.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): Madam Speaker, my first words must be that in this country we desperately need a society for the protection of ministers who read into the records of the House such stuff as we have just heard. I think the minister can rightly say that tonight he spent the longest 40 minutes of his life.

● (2040)

It is necessary to visualize the setting for this. For days now there have been secret hush-hush meetings between House leaders. Messages have gone forth to the various spokesmen for the parties. We were all told that if we went into our offices and let no one see this document, we could have it at six o'clock. They even got the press corralled at 6.30 p.m. Not only did we have to read this, but we missed our supper to boot. All this, this great experiment in democracy of parliament, for this statement!

The understanding I got of why we had to wait until eight o'clock and were kept in secrecy all these crucial hours was that the stock market would not dare hear this statement until the end of the day. I can just imagine tomorrow morning the value of the paper companies in Canada dropping out of sight following the statement of the minister that we are now going to save paper in the government. You should have seen what they handed us when we walked into the House tonight. They did not even pay us the conservation principle of making the paper such that we could use it the second time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain): I looked at all the tax items. They may consider taxing air conditioners. I do not see a single company on the stock markets of New York, Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver—

An hon. Member: And Tokyo.

Mr. Hamilton (Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain):—and Tokyo—not one is going to change one cent in value because of this statement, yet they bring us in here under these conditions of great drama. The press gallery is filled with members of the media in order to get these important words and spread them to the nation. This statement has made this parliament the laughing stock not of Canada, but of the whole world.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!