

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Friday, June 28, 1985

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

ENERGY

GOVERNMENT'S CONSERVATION POLICY

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention the fact that the Government has abandoned energy conservation and increased our dependence on diminishing oil supplies. This pattern emerged last November when cuts of \$32 million were made to the energy division of the National Research Council. Bill C-24 followed, which eliminates programs which encourage switching to energy sources other than oil, and to energy conservation, respectively. Then came the May 23 Budget which wiped out the federal sales tax exemption for home insulation, energy conservation products, and alternate energy equipment.

The Government seems to be insensitive to the necessity of conserving Canada's oil supply and the necessity of reducing our reliance on this form of energy. Furthermore, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) just said that a federal subsidy may have to be instituted to assist oil companies with exploration activities in frontier areas.

Instead of financing high risk activities in the Arctic, we should encourage better reuse of the oil already in the marketplace. For example, the removal of federal sales tax from recycled oil sold in Canada would not only help the Canadian re-refining industry that is in the forefront of world technology, but would also reduce the need to explore for oil in the expensive and high risk frontier areas. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, with appropriate—

Mr. Speaker: I regret to inform the Hon. Member that his 90 seconds have expired. The Hon. Member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn).

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SPACE WEAPONRY

UNITED STATES STRATEGIC DEFENCE INITIATIVE—KROEGER REPORT

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, it is unbelievable that the Government plans to keep secret Arthur Kroe-

ger's report on the U.S. invitation to participate in the Strategic Defence Initiative. This makes a mockery of the commitment of the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) for public debate and consultation in matters of foreign policy. Apparently the Government agrees with Ken Lewis, the retired general who is now on the payroll of Canada's defence contractors. You remember General Lewis. He is the one who said that ordinary Canadians should not debate star wars because that is like grade six students discussing surgery.

The aerospace industry thinks Canadians are too stupid or ignorant to make decisions for themselves. I guess the Government wants to keep them that way. However, I have news for the Government. Canadians will not be fooled by its attempt to stifle debate. They will be out in force to debate star wars whether the Government likes it or not. They will speak from an intelligent and informed point of view.

For example, yesterday I had the pleasure to table a petition in the House from over 400 academics, mostly from the University of Toronto. Such distinguished Canadians as George Ignatieff and Northrop Frye are telling the Government that Canada should have no part of star wars. Will the Government listen? I do not know. It certainly seems reluctant to discuss the matter with Canadians. It even wants to keep the Kroeger report secret. In that respect it is the Government of Canada which is behaving with a grade six mentality. The citizens of Canada, on the other hand, continue to distinguish themselves with their thoughtful contributions to the star wars debate.

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DISASTERS

AIR-INDIA CRASH—DEATH OF LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT COLETTE ALLARD

Mr. Jim Edwards (Edmonton South): Mr. Speaker, scores of families across the nation are mourning friends and loved ones lost when Air-India Flight 182 plunged into the North Atlantic Sunday morning. Prayer services have been held in temples and churches throughout Canada. Many memorial and funeral services remain to be scheduled pending identification of the 131 bodies now recovered. It is an agonizing time for the families whose grief is suspended or compounded through not knowing.

One such waiting family is the Allard family of Ottawa and Hull. Stephanie, David, and Harold are the three teenaged children of Colette Allard, a warm, intuitive lover of music and life, who served this House as my Legislative Assistant