

*Oral Questions*

So far, however, no comprehensive environmental assessment has been made of policies at the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The minister simply refuses to co-operate. Why?

[English]

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, the minister of energy is not in a position where he does not co-operate. He is co-operating.

On any issue that comes before cabinet through the regular documentation we have to satisfy and I as minister of energy I have to satisfy the environmental conditions. That is a condition of cabinet decision making. I am doing it.

**Mr. Paul Martin (LaSalle—Émard):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the same minister.

Energy policy is a critical indicator of a government's commitment to sustainable development. The minister's refusal, his cabinet's refusal to allow an environmental assessment of the government's energy policy, demonstrates not only a lack of concern for the environment but is poor economic policy as well.

• (1440 )

The question is very clear. When will the government produce the environmental evaluation of his department's energy choices, an evaluation that was promised clearly and unequivocally 18 months ago?

**Hon. Jake Epp (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, if there is any change in the policy position and if cabinet makes that decision, part of that decision-making process will be the environmental considerations. As we have said before that remains and no change has taken place.

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### INFORMANT PROGRAMS

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister.

Most Canadians readily understand the need to compensate some individuals for the risks they take in providing information on drug smuggling, murder or

conspiracy to the RCMP or the Security Intelligence Service. What is less clear is why Fisheries and Oceans, Environment Canada, and Revenue Canada are developing paid confidential informant programs.

My question for the Minister of Finance is: Would he explain why there are departments that are allowed to operate such programs without placing the costs in the estimates before Parliament, something the Minister of Finance is directly responsible for?

**Hon. Doug Lewis (Solicitor General of Canada):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the minister of fisheries I can tell the House that I will be pleased to take my hon. friend's representations into account and report back to him as soon as possible.

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. The minister of fisheries is here, so the Solicitor General's response was not all that helpful.

**Some hon. members:** Oh, oh.

**Mr. Speaker:** Maybe we are going to have to start over. The hon. member for Skeena.

**Mr. Fulton:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. The minister of fisheries has obviously had a very close shave.

My supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance, because this is an important auditing function that he handles. There are now at least five ministries on that side of the House involved in informant programs.

I would like to ask the Minister of Finance whether or not he would agree that rather than operating the bounty hunter programs which are now being operated by Fisheries, Revenue, and soon by Environment Canada, with secret bank accounts and secret telephone numbers, does he not think it would be better to set up some hot-lines where Canadians can advise the departments of illegal activities that they are aware of?

Will the minister assure this House that by the end of today he will table all the budgets of all the ministries on that side of the House that have informant programs?

**Hon. Gilles Loiselle (President of the Treasury Board and Minister of State (Finance)):** Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member referred to the Main Estimates maybe I can be of some assistance.