

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I always enjoy listening to the Hon. Member because the more she talks, the more her credibility disappears. I know the Hon. Member would not want to mislead the House deliberately. I know she would not want to do that. I just want to point out some facts to her from what she said today to show that she was really flirting with the truth when saying that the Government is not interested in conservation, renewable energy, or housing.

● (1620)

Let us just take one item from the new Estimates, for example. There will be \$4 million in support of super energy efficient housing demonstrations, the R-2000 Program. As shown in the 1984-85 Estimates, the former Government did not even participate in that program. It did not have anything to do with it. With regard to transportation energy conservation, there will be \$50,000 for a task force this year. There will be \$16 million in support of the development and demonstration of new technologies related to renewable and non-conventional resources of energy conservation and oil substitution by conventional fuels. That was not even in the Liberal Budget. They did not even pay any attention to that. There will be \$3.7 million in support of industrial energy research and development programs. That was not even in the Liberal Budget last year.

I can go on. There is \$17.4 million in support of Atlantic provinces to assist industrial and commercial establishments and institutions to finance a portion of the capital investment in energy conservation. Do you want more? There is \$20 million, double what it was last year, in support of organization to stimulate the use of biomass residue as a fuel in place of conventional fuels and to cogenerate electricity and heat.

So the facts and figures that the Hon. Member has been laying before the House this afternoon are completely inaccurate. The assumptions that she is making that the Government is not interested in conservation and is not doing anything about it are totally wrong. The facts are presented in the Budget Papers, Part III, Expenditure Plans of Energy, Mines and Resources. I would suggest that the Hon. Member should take time from her very busy schedule to read this, absorb it, and understand what is going on in energy conservation in the country today.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry if the Member does not agree with the statistics that are presented by this own Department. Everything that I have read here today—and I would be very happy to table the document in the House—has come from the Government on the basis of its own statistical provisions.

I cannot believe that the Parliamentary Secretary would stand up in the House and brag about \$50,000 that he and his Government are spending on a task force. I realize that government Members must have something to do. I understand why a number of them who do not have parliamentary secretaryships are very very frustrated. For the Parliamentary Secretary to stand up in the House and brag about the fact that he is going to blow \$50,000 of the taxpayers' money on a

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task force to look at energy conservation across Canada, when we know the problems and solutions, is absolutely ludicrous.

I can see one way where the Government can make some savings. It has promised certain research into wind conservation energy. I think that by merely shutting up the Parliamentary Secretary, we could probably make a great saving in the area of wind energy conservation.

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, the only comment I have is that the credibility of the Hon. Member is rapidly going downhill. She might have been able to play those games in Ontario when she sat on the back-bench there in opposition. I think she has been in opposition far too long. She is getting an extremely warped outlook on life. Her whole 20 minutes speech was a negative diatribe of clichés that she has been using for I don't know how many years since she has been an elected official. If she had any positive suggestions on renewable energy, she would not be spreading around the falsehoods that she was today.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, a point of order.

Mr. McDermid: Well, Mr. Speaker, I make the point that—

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I do not believe it is parliamentary for him to suggest I am spreading falsehoods, and I would merely ask him to retract that.

Mr. Taylor: That is exactly what you were doing.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Would the Parliamentary Secretary for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. McDermid) consider maybe rephrasing the word used?

Mr. McDermid: Far be it from me to offend the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps), Mr. Speaker. I will certainly withdraw that remark about spreading falsehoods. She accused the Government of not being interested in housing and conservation. The facts were laid out by myself this afternoon showing that the Government is very interested in that. For her to go around saying that it is not interested is not true. That is the point I am trying to make. The facts were presented this afternoon in the House of Commons very clearly.

I think the Hon. Member will admit that programs which are brought in by governments cannot last forever. There must be a sunset clause in programs. One of the problems within governments in Canada over the last number of years is that programs have been brought in and then forgotten about. They have not been assessed to see if they are doing what they were created to do. The programs that we are debating today in Bill C-24 have accomplished what they set out to do. There is no question about that. They have helped Canada to become more aware. The role of the Government today is to educate the people on how they can save money by converting on their own. Taxpayers of the country do not expect to be bribed with their own money to convert when they know they will make savings.