

financial commitment from Ottawa which will enable us to move in this direction.

About ten years ago the premier of Ontario speaking at a federal-provincial conference, and they seem to be going on all the time, suggested that we borrow on the credit of the nation \$1 billion to help put the maritimes on their feet. Reflected in the declining purchasing power of the Canadian dollar that comes to about \$2 billion today. I think it is a good idea and I would like to tell you how I would use less than that if we had the opportunity.

New Brunswick is just finishing construction, and we hope to bring on line next year, a thermal nuclear plant which will produce 640 megawatts of power. If Ottawa could pay for the capital cost of that plant, which is capital intensive, we would have 640 megawatts of cheap electric power that would impact on a system of only 2,000 megawatts and give New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, because it is tied to New Brunswick by submarine cable, the lowest energy rates in Canada, creating a climate that would really be attractive to industrial growth.

Nova Scotia is in the process of building two thermal plants at the mouth of the Lingan coal mine. This means they do not have to handle coal twice and they can buy it cheap. Those two plants combined will produce 300 megawatts of electric power, and they have two more on the drawing board, which would give Nova Scotia 600 megawatts of power. If we could pay for those plants Nova Scotia would have 600 megawatts of cheap electric power, but their 600 megawatts would impact on a system of only 1,600 megawatts because Nova Scotia has a service-based economy whereas New Brunswick is resource based. That would give Nova Scotia cheap electric power too and would enable us to create a climate which would really be attractive to energy and industrial expansion. However, where is the money going to come from?

Eastern Canada, thanks to a serious error in judgment made some years ago, is completely reliant upon imported foreign oil. Eastern Canada imports 500,000 barrels of foreign oil every day. The Atlantic provinces use 300,000 barrels of this; the province of New Brunswick uses 90,000 barrels. At a subsidy of \$20 per barrel Canada is paying \$10 million a day in subsidies on imported oil and the Atlantic provinces are completely reliant on this insecure supply source. Would it not be much better to displace much of this imported oil and give the Atlantic provinces the tools to pull up their boot straps and solve their own problems? That is the recommendation I make to the government tonight.

In terms of renewable energy, the government has expanded its system of grants, and I commend it for that. Over the past few years we are spending more money on research and development of new technologies in this field of renewable energy. However, I think the renewable energy program should be given a development dimension, because by any criteria, the Atlantic provinces do not receive their fair share of these projects and this research. This is one area that is not reliant on transportation policies or freight rates which cripple

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the Atlantic provinces. This is one area where they could be productively used and put to work.

I shudder when you move, Mr. Speaker, because I have one eye on the clock and the other on you.

We have the natural resources which can provide the basis for such research. We have an abundant supply of coal that could provide a research opportunity for the gasification and liquefaction of coal. We have oil shale in abundance. We should research various means to find the most efficient way of getting the oil out of the oil shale and thus make a contribution to our national economy.

We have the agricultural products, the waste wood and the biomass that could develop a methanol industry. We should move in this direction because our national economy needs it. We have an abundance of wood that now, at long last in New Brunswick, is being properly managed, and it, too, could provide a renewable energy source. We have seen some experimentation in New Brunswick in geothermal research; I think it has proved very successful, but the technology has to be improved. This is one area in which I think we could make a productive contribution.

One man who lives in my riding, in Millville, has developed a means of using sawdust blown into the furnace to create a low cost heat source. He has an alternate oil and sawdust burner which I think is a tremendous thing. He has made it out of his wife's sewing machine, her vacuum cleaner and all kinds of parts he has put together. I believe people like this should be harnessed in the national interest to help us by making a contribution to the solution to our problems.

In my view the cornerstone of any intelligent energy policy applicable to the Atlantic provinces should give serious consideration to the harnessing of the tides in the Bay of Fundy. These are the highest tides in the world, and our studies so far, involving the government of Canada and the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, indicate it is feasible to do this. The big question is, what do you do at that point when the tides are balanced and are still? In an enlarged electric grid, a power pool, the energy from the tides in the Bay of Fundy could become firm power by integrating its development and use with the development of Gull Island in Labrador, or Muskrat Falls below it, or, indeed, with the Dickey-Lincoln Dam in the State of Maine, if that development moves forward.

The attraction of huge blocks of energy like this for industry has been well demonstrated throughout the world. Metal and chemical-based industries use huge blocks of energy in their development. My plea to Parliament is to take a good look at this source. Help us in the Atlantic provinces help ourselves. Give us the financial commitment necessary so that we can move forward with this development and share in the good things this great nation has to offer.

One research aspect is that we could use, at will, power from the Fundy development to take part in the scientific experiment now going on in other nations of the world whereby electrolysis is used to develop hydrogen for experimental pur-