

Energy

behaviour patterns in our society were conceived in the past without reference to energy conservation and have inadvertently led to a high demand for energy. It is our intent to reverse the direction of these factors so as to indicate for individuals, businesses and other institutions the way to energy conservation practices and to reward them for that choice.

This set of programs includes both mandatory measures, in the form of standards and regulations, as well as a host of financial and informational incentives. It is the nature of these proposals, however, that the responsibility for the modification of existing programs or the promulgation of new measures is widely dispersed within the federal government and between federal and provincial authorities. I am also concerned that these proposals lead to a comprehensive body of programs in which the costs of energy conservation as they may be perceived, though I would assert that they shall in reality be benefits, are equitably shared.

At the present time energy is consumed in the Canadian economy in roughly equal proportions by residential, commercial, industrial and transportation users. I am convinced that very significant savings can be effected in each of these sectors, but I am also anxious to ensure that the consequences of government action are felt as equally as possible among and within these sectors.

Several measures have already been enacted by the government. First, the CANTAG program of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs will result in tags including energy consumption and efficiency information being attached to consumer products such as refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers and others.

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Second, the insulation standards in the Canadian Code on Residential Construction will be upgraded as of this May. This code is used by CMHC in financing mortgages under the National Housing Act. Third, the Department of Public Works intends not only to use its energy systems analysis computer program to tune up federal buildings but also to provide this service and its accumulated expertise to the private and public sectors for application to both the operation of existing buildings and the design of new ones.

As far as new proposals are concerned, their detail and number prevent me from discussing each at length. Instead I will describe them in general terms, and table a list of these proposals which I would request be reprinted as an appendix to *Hansard*. I wonder if the House will agree to this, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Does the House agree to the minister's suggestion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

[*Editor's Note: For list of proposals above referred to, see Appendix "B".*]

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): These proposals are in various stages of research and design by my department and the other federal and provincial departments under whose

[Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).]

jurisdiction they fall. Though I would emphasize again our desire to see these proposals come forward in as comprehensive as possible a set of program recommendations, my sense of urgency is such that parts of this integrated structure will proceed as rapidly as the approval process will permit.

The highlights of our proposals are as follows: First, with regard to public education, in addition to our general information and advertising program, further specific public education should be undertaken in the areas of purchase, operation and maintenance of residences, commercial buildings and automobiles. Second, with regard to consumer information, the CANTAG program already referred to should be expanded to include more home appliances, cars and houses. Third, new energy efficiency standards will be considered for nation-wide insulation requirements in all buildings, appliances and industrial equipment, and for automobile performance a minimum miles per gallon standard that would rise with time.

The fourth proposal is in the area of tax measures. In the design of new tax measures consideration will be given to such measures as rapid depreciation of investment in energy conservation equipment and modifications, removal of sales tax on insulation and specific conservation equipment, such as heat pumps and heat exchanges, and new taxes on inefficient appliances, automobiles, car air conditioners and motorized recreation vehicles. The design and implementation of such measures must, of course, be consistent with over-all government fiscal designs and must ultimately be reconciled with the broader responsibilities of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner).

Fifth, a redirection of government subsidies and investments toward energy efficient alternatives will include consideration of improvements in passenger train services and urban rapid transit—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):—and loan grants to upgrade the thermal efficiency in homes and commercial buildings.

Sixth, there are a host of other measures upon which energy conservation concerns impinge and which we will be studying. These include further federal aid to urban transportation; methods of taking lifetime costs, including energy costs, into account in mortgage lending; structuring freight rates to encourage recycling and efficient transport; the recognition of explicit conservation criteria in transportation policy decisions; development of energy performance standards for buildings; the impact of advertising and credit on energy consumption; ways to reduce packaging and disposable items; and specific federal intervention to encourage recycling.

Seventh, there are in addition a number of miscellaneous, but nevertheless important measures which include the training of energy inspectors for the residential and commercial sector who, amongst other activities, would ensure that top quality furnace servicing is being provided; a federal interdepartmental committee to promote industrial energy conservation; a conversion to returnable beverage containers; meetings with designers, builders and lenders to promote building efficiency; and promotion