

### Renewable Energy

Ontario plans to expend some \$16 billion on renewable energy by 1995. This is on page 14 of the same publication. When asked where Ontario will get the money and whether it is a budgeted amount, the officials we spoke to said that they expect those funds to come mainly from private sources, so there is no push on the part of the Ontario government. Neither is there on the part of the other governments much enthusiasm for a big start, a big bite into renewables. Enthusiasm for renewables just does not exist, and anyone who thinks it does is kidding himself. It is not happening here in Canada at all. I do not care what kinds of noises are made. I do not care how many big million-dollar ad campaigns are floated. It is not happening, and I do not think it will happen unless people start becoming alarmed and are made aware of the fact that Canada has no strong program to develop and implement large projects based on renewable sources.

I will give some comparisons. The same is modest expectation true in all the other provinces. We wondered why there was so little interest. The committee really wondered. It looked around and visited various places, and all the officials were very co-operative. But why was there no interest? What is the matter? Why is there so little interest in biomass, wind, water, sun, ethanol or forest waste utilization? Does no one believe there is an energy crisis? That is a possibility because we have been fooled so often. Is there no leadership from Ottawa? That is another possibility. There is probably a bit of cynicism on both those points because we have been fooled so often. My constituents believed there is no energy crisis at all, and all there was was a scare campaign on the part of oil companies in an effort to get prices up. I do not believe that, but I think it is the prevailing view out there, and it seems to me this attitude is what is holding back the development and acceptance of renewables by the general public.

Look at what Ottawa is spending this year on energy research and development. The parliamentary secretary made reference to what Ottawa is spending. The total spending for conservation measures and research and development in this country by EMR this year amounts to \$12 million. The total spent on all renewables in this country by EMR is \$20 million. The same publication lists total spending on nuclear of \$104 million. We can see where the priorities lie. They are where they have always been. Money is being spent on fossil fuels. It is also spent on subsidizing oil wells and gas drilling and tar sands developments, but it is not being spent on renewables. I am not suggesting research could absorb it all anyway, but a pitiful \$12 million is spent for conservation R and D, \$20 million is spent for renewables, when \$104 million, if not more, has been spent in each of the last ten years on nukes. That is where Canada's energy priorities lie. They do not lie with the renewables at all.

The *Financial Post* says we need to spend much more on research and development. On October 18, there was a whole editorial headed "Ignore Research and Development at our Peril". The editorial says that in 1967 we were spending 1.4 per cent of our gross national product on research and development, and now we are spending less than 1 per cent. Is that

progress? We are going backwards in this regard. Where do we need the research and development? We need money spent on research and development into energy sources and especially renewables.

We might compare—

**Mr. MacLaren:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I apologize to the hon. member opposite for interrupting, but I would be interested if he would care to cite his authority for the numbers which he just gave. In fact, total federal expenditures on energy conservation during fiscal year 1978-79 exceeded \$82 million. In addition, provincial governments spent an estimated \$13.5 million, bringing the total for the year to something close to \$100 million.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please. Hon. members should recognize that the clock moves on. I know the parliamentary secretary is aware that technically speaking that is not a point of order, but I will recognize it for what it is, a question, and I encourage the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose) to deal with it as he sees fit, but to recognize the clock as well.

**Mr. Rose:** Mr. Speaker, I would certainly be delighted to do that. Perhaps the parliamentary secretary chose three years and added them all up. I took EMR 1980-81 budget for R and D, and my source was the brief to the parliamentary task force for alternative energy and oil substitution by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. I recommend that to the parliamentary secretary for his long winter bedtime reading.

I cannot go on too much longer with this, but there is a great deal more that needs to be said. Let us say that compared with other countries such as Sweden, Canada is spending about one-fortieth as much on conservation and research and development. We have not looked into all alternatives. We have not developed the procedures we need, and we had better start doing so because, as I said earlier, the party is over. Let us get this business of renewables on the rails and start moving on it. Let us stop kidding the public that we are doing a lot more than we are.

**Mr. Howard Crosby (Halifax West):** Mr. Speaker, let me say that I support Bill C-210, to promote the use of renewable energy. I congratulate the hon. member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) for bringing this very important matter to the attention of the House.

I wanted to take a little time to explain to the House our situation in Nova Scotia. I wanted to explain our developments in tidal power. I am sure the hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. MacLellan) wanted to tell us about the development of fossil fuels.

● (1800)

We lost that opportunity because the time in the private members' hour has been occupied. But the hon. member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. Rose) gave us one important lesson in the matter of renewable energy in his intervention: that he has a solution. The hon. member and the NDP have a solution