

## ENERGY

ATMOSPHERIC TEMPERATURE INCREASE—HYDROGEN  
ADVOCATED AS ALTERNATIVE FUEL

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. The United States Environmental Protection Agency in a recent official report warns about the greenhouse effect, saying the buildup of carbon in the atmosphere will lead to a disastrous warming of the earth, the effects to be felt as early as the 1990s. We have the technology to start correcting the problem. Hydrogen is the only fuel that burns clean. The parliamentary Committee on Alternate Energy reported and recommended that Canada move toward a hydrogen-based economy. Will the Minister make the same grants and subsidies available for the development of hydrogen that he now makes available for frontier gas and oil exploration?

[Translation]

**Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, I think there are two problems that are entirely different in scope. I read with great interest the Committee's report on alternative energy sources, and the use of hydrogen is an interesting proposal, but I do not think we have reached the point where we should consider changing our policy on developing oil resources in Canada.

[English]

**Mr. de Jong:** Madam Speaker, very often those involved with fossil fuels acquire fossil minds. My next question is directed to the Minister of Finance.

● (1450)

## FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEN

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** My next question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The Minister of Finance knows that hydrogen is an available fuel. In fact, on November 4, 1981, we rode together in a hydrogen fueled car, and he stated at that time that it was a very interesting technology that needs to be developed.

As well, the Minister knows that the National Research Council, through Mr. Brian Taylor, has stated that the technology for hydrogen exists and it is only political timing that is preventing its development. In fact, Madam Speaker—

**Madam Speaker:** In fact, does the Hon. Member have a question? It is incredible.

**Mr. de Jong:** My question, Madam Speaker, is directed to the Minister. Will the Minister recommend that in his next budget, grants and subsidies that are now provided to frontier oil and gas development should also be made available to individuals and companies attempting to develop hydrogen into an economical fuel for Canada in order that we can create some jobs and export some—

**Madam Speaker:** Order, please.

## Oral Questions

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance):** Madam Speaker, I shall consider the Hon. Member's question as a proposal to be examined in preparing the Budget.

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[English]

## EXTERNAL AID

## SUCO FUNDING

**Mr. Bob Ogle (Saskatoon East):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of State for External Relations. The Minister is aware that the funding for the Service universitaire canadien outre-mer, known as SUCO and a partner of CUSO, has had its funds cut back and seems to have been totally eliminated. Could the Minister explain to the House why this was done, and does he have any program to see that funds will be reinstated?

**Hon. Jean-Luc Pepin (Minister of State (External Relations)):** Madam Speaker, this was done with great regret. It became pretty obvious to most people that SUCO, notwithstanding increased budget support from CIDA and consulting services paid by CIDA to the group, was incapable of putting together a reasonably good accounting service. In this instance the Government tried to minimize the damage and we have ensured the co-opérants that they would be properly subsidized by CIDA until March 31. In the meantime we hope that the co-opérants will find association with other groups so that they can continue to serve the countries to which they have been assigned in the best possible way. Again, this is a regrettable action. It is an action that is not often taken by CIDA, but which had to be taken in this particular instance.

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## GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

## PRIME MINISTER'S 1980 STATEMENT

**Hon. George Hees (Northumberland):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister stated in a speech to the Liberal campaign college in Toronto on January 12, 1980: "First we must get the nation's finances in order. Our commitment is this. We will hold the line on government expenditure growth to under the rate of growth of the GNP". As the Prime Minister has said this and as, during the following three years between then and now, government expenditures expressed as a percentage of GNP have increased from 19 per cent to 22 per cent and are still going up, would the Prime Minister advise the House how this performance squares with the rousing rhetoric with which he wound up his speech on that day by saying: "There's a prior commitment I want to make clear. Liberals will do what we say we will do. And if we can't do it, we won't say it"?

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister):** Madam Speaker, the only thing wrong with the question asked by the