

Energy, Mines and Resources

Mr. Rose: We did not hear a word from the minister. There is no money for health or housing. We see great amounts of money being spent to bore holes in the Beaufort Sea.

The committee made seven recommendations. First, we should make every effort to reduce energy demand by practising conservation. The minister is completely occupied with the supply side of the energy question. All that he can think about is Hibernia and drilling more holes in one area and causing more environmental risks somewhere else. He does not give much attention to trying to reduce the demand. We are told by many people, including people in his own department, that if he injected the same amount of money into alternatives and substitutes he would be much better off. But he ignores that advice. He walks into the House with this inadequate bill tonight and expects us to accept it. We cannot do it.

I think these suggestions are worth looking at as guidelines for development which were made by a parliamentary committee, including a majority of the minister's own members, to suggest where we should be heading. Either this committee was correct democratically or it was all wrong. The second suggestion of the committee was that, in the long term, energy should be derived primarily from renewable or inexhaustible resources of energy. What does the minister do with respect to the second question? He spends \$6.5 billion on the PIPs program. What does that accomplish? That only provides for the exploration and discovery of finite and non-renewable resources.

The third suggestion was that the production of the primary energy we require should be achieved with as little environmental disruption as possible. What will happen when there is a blowout in Beaufort and Hibernia or off the coast of Labrador? An environmental atrocity could occur, but it is of no concern because it relates to the supply side of energy. There is no consideration for smaller automobiles, less gas or conservation by giving a grant equivalent to what is being given to PIPs. We are concerned only with the supply side.

Fourth, we must achieve a greater diversity in Canada's energy mix. Is the government giving incentives for propane, transport fuel, or electrifying our railways? Some of those alternatives should be considered. I do not believe that we can completely get rid of the megaprojects, but certainly there must be a better balance to what the government is doing.

The fifth suggestion states that we must recognize regional differences in energy resources and in energy requirements. This would make oil and gas exploration sensible, along with substitution in Atlantic Canada. It may not make sense in other parts of Canada, but since we are very rich in resources we must achieve a mix and take care of things that are non-renewable.

Sixth, we must address strategic concerns in formulating energy policy. How do we solve the problem if we are suddenly cut off? The minister says to give more money to the oil companies to do more drilling in Hibernia or offshore. That may be part of the solution but it is onesided.

The final suggestion was that we must consider the social implications of bringing about major changes in Canada's

energy system. What will the social implications be? I will outline two or three. First, it makes sense to decentralize our energy systems. Does it really make more sense to send a welder up to the Beaufort Sea than to provide a manufacturing base for that welder in conservation techniques in Waterloo or Vancouver or somewhere else? What about the social and family disruption? What about the environmental disruption?

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We had a committee which looked at Canada's energy problem from a very loyal and perhaps even a nationalistic point of view. We looked at the Canada energy system for approximately a year and heard from expert witnesses. It is a little disappointing that its recommendations have been almost completely ignored.

The committee called for a minister of state for conservation and renewables. Why would we do that? We did that for the same reason a minister of state, was appointed in charge of mines under the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Resources. We need someone whose main task would be to look after certain things which are considered important, such as conservation. Everyone tells us it is far cheaper to conserve a barrel of oil than to find a new one. At marginal prices the cost would be about one-quarter to one-half the cost.

We could go into solar. We have not provided incentives for solar. We have subsidized electricity, gas, petroleum and a number of other conventional hard path energy systems. The government pay anywhere from 10 per cent to 50 per cent of their actual value, yet we expected solar to stand on its own. That is not practical, and yet we know that the solar industry is capable of tremendous expansion. With a minimum of \$250 million over a five-year period we could provide up to 100,000 jobs at the rate of about \$2,500 in public funds per job. In a country which needs energy and in a country which is filled with unemployed, why do we not try some of these things instead of constantly being caught up with the same old habit pattern of finding more oil to burn in more gas guzzlers to provide more money for the multinationals to export to their home state? We are asking the government to look at a few things like that.

Mr. MacBain: Look this way, Mark. We are watching. We want to see you.

Mr. Rose: My friend, the hon. member for Niagara Falls, was on the alternative energy committee, and he knows why we did what we did. But what he does not know—and if he does, he has not said so—is why the government has not moved to implement the recommendations of that committee after more than a year. Why do we not have something in line with that excellent report? Why is that?

Mr. Waddell: It is a Lalonde power grab.

Mr. Rose: If we really want energy security we should not be bothered with the kind of nonsense which comes in this one bill or the eight other bills. It does not matter; energy security