

Energy

energy as they will need. I reject this facile, 'hard-times' answer to conservation. This is not to say, however, that Canadians can avoid paying higher energy prices in the years ahead.

The policies that the Federal government has pursued with respect to Canadian prices of crude oil and natural gas have had two objectives. The cooperative program among Federal and Provincial governments and industry to freeze Canadian crude prices below international levels both avoided exacerbating inflationary problems and permitted a period in which Canadian consumers and governments could adjust to the prospect of much higher costs levels. This price freeze has given us a breathing spell, in effect, to design and adapt ourselves to a new ethic of conservation. We have gained the time to prepare ourselves for phased increases in energy prices.

In the design of the energy conservation policies which I am about to announce, I wish to make clear that these will be permanent policies, not contingency plans enacted in a crisis. They shall apply to all forms of energy. We have developed a five-phase program designed to adapt our energy policy to these changed times of high cost resources, to involve all Canadians in a national program of energy conservation, to distribute the benefits of these new initiatives to all individuals, sectors and regions in our economy, and to provide a stable energy future and high quality of life for all Canadians.

[*English*]

Because energy is so pervasive in our way of life, the direct responsibility for conservation action is widely shared among households, industry, and all levels of government. Our policies, then, in the first instance, must be designed to inform, assist and facilitate a change in deeply ingrained habits common to us all.

Canadian conservation policy seeks to avoid the negative and punitive connotation which we see in the policies of some other countries. We have designed a comprehensive approach in which the impact on all Canadians has been well considered and measured. We are resolved to aim at the causes of energy waste and inefficiency and not solely at its more obvious symptoms and examples, and we are resolved to do this in a manner in which both inequities of cost are minimized and benefits are shared amongst all Canadians.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about the federal government in-house conservation program. The first phase of our five-part program involves putting the federal government's own house in order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): It is essential that we eliminate waste and inefficiencies within our own operations because we are a significant consumer of energy and our contribution will make an impact. We intend to demonstrate the seriousness with which we intend to pursue energy management policies, and we hope to provide a strong example to the public and private sectors.

An hon. Member: What a hope!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): In this regard I am tabling tonight a program of energy conservation in the opera-

[*Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale).*]

tions of the federal government. Due to the length and detail of this document I do not propose to read it into the record but merely to summarize it. I would, however, request that it be printed as an appendix to *Hansard*. Do I have the agreement of the House?

Mr. Speaker: Does the House agree to the request of the minister?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: It is so ordered.

[*Editor's Note: For "The Federal Government's In-house Energy Conservation Program" see Appendix "A".*]

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): These programs were designed by my department with the co-operation of the Department of Public Works, the Department of Supply and Services and the Treasury Board, and are currently being executed by these agencies.

Let me first point out that energy conservation is not something completely new to the federal government's operations. Indeed, in 1974 the Department of Public Works achieved, through its building operating guidelines and combustion efficiency program, average energy savings of 12 per cent in its Ottawa steam generating plants. Some individual buildings cut their demand by 40 per cent, which in one case amounted to dollar savings of \$100,000 per year.

An hon. Member: Why are the expenditures up?

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The government program will include revised operating guidelines for the heating, lighting and, in the summer time, cooling of government buildings, including improved steam plant efficiency and building modifications. It will include the purchase and lease of smaller automobiles—

An hon. Member: Like Cadillacs.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):—and a speed limit of 55 miles per hour on federal vehicles.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): The government program will also include reduction of paper use, purchase of recycled paper and the recycling of waste paper; new guidelines for government purchase of products favouring energy efficiency; a review of employee services, including a reduction of available parking to inspire more reliance on public transportation, and the design of more energy efficient cafeteria services.

An hon. Member: Keep the swimming pool at 30 degrees.

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): I think it will be obvious to all that the government intends to build a conservation ethic permanently into its own operations. There will be many fundamental changes which cannot be implemented overnight, and I will have to request the public's understanding when they see certain of these measures lagging or not completely implemented.