

*Oral Questions*

**Mr. Speaker:** There being no unanimous consent, the motion cannot be put.

## ORAL QUESTION PERIOD

[English]

## ENERGY

## CONSERVATION PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR ESTIMATE OF AMOUNT OF SAVING AND DETAILS OF PROGRAM

**Mr. James Gillies (Don Valley):** Mr. Speaker, I am sure that on the hottest day in May the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources may not be thinking of energy conservation. On February 6, the minister said he could not give a specific goal for cutting back energy consumption because it would depend on the extent of co-operation from other departments. I should like to ask whether the minister is now in a position to say that the program he has planned will be sufficiently developed so that next winter he will be able to cut energy use by the one per cent which he proposes and hopes he can do?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I can be quite so specific at this point. Certainly, growth in the demand has moderated during the past winter, but the extent to which that was due either to higher prices or the impact of a milder winter we cannot yet be certain. My colleague, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce and myself will be meeting at the end of this week with industry for the purpose of further mobilizing industrial support behind the conservation program. As I mentioned to the hon. member privately, I hope to be able to inform him and the House in a relatively short interval about some estimate of the impact of the program to this date, and some directions in which we would like to go hereafter.

**Mr. Gillies:** Mr. Speaker, in his statement the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources said on February 6 that the goal of the program would be a number of government standards, regulations, incentives and investment programs. Were these what he was alluding to a moment ago in his reply, and will he be able to make these standards available to the public by next Monday?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Some of them, certainly, Mr. Speaker, particularly with regard to those of CMHC for insulation and other standards for home heating. I have impressed upon my colleague that for the benefit of the National Building Code it should be amended at an early date, and I would hope that the changes can be made available to the House. Given the timetable of that meeting with that particular group, which is a mixed government-private group, I am not certain we can achieve it within the time frame the hon. member is talking about, but that certainly would be one of our goals.

**Mr. Gillies:** Also at that time, Mr. Speaker, the minister suggested the major part of the conservation program in Canada would involve a series of tax measures. Without giving away any budgetary matters, could the minister

[Mr. Speaker.]

indicate whether we can expect to find a series of tax proposals relating to energy conservation within the near future?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I am restrained to await the Minister of Finance in that regard, Mr. Speaker.

## REQUEST FOR TABLING OF REPORT ON RESEARCH ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCES—STANDARDS FOR BUILDING INSULATION

**Miss Flora MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the Science Council of Canada in its report yesterday entitled "Canada's Energy Opportunities" has recommended more intensive research and investment into renewable non-polluting energy resources as an important component in a national energy policy, and in view of the fact that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources stated on February 10 that his department had completed an assessment of research work that had been done at the federal level with regard to alternative energy sources, is the minister now prepared to table that document on the subject?

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Mr. Speaker, I would remind the hon. lady that sometime ago I indicated that as soon as the document was completed and translated it would be laid on the table of the House.

**Miss MacDonald (Kingston and the Islands):** Further to the minister's comment with regard to insulation, Mr. Speaker, given that the new standards for insulation just released by CMHC do not meet the recommendations put forward by the joint energy industry task force or those recommended by the minister for conservation purposes, will the minister say why he and his colleagues were prepared to accept only half measures in this regard?

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** I would not agree with the hon. lady's premise, Mr. Speaker.

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## FINANCE

## SUGGESTED INVESTIGATION OF TAX DEDUCTIBILITY OF ADVERTISEMENT BY URBAN DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Finance. In view of the minister's attempts to get a consensus from business, labour and governments for an incomes policy to deal with inflation based on restraining their demands, will the minister look at the type of advertisements appearing in newspapers such as the *Toronto Globe and Mail* sponsored by IAC and the Urban Development Institute which are simply pleading their special interests as investors to see whether such ads should be permitted to be tax deductible.

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Yes, Mr. Speaker; I will look into that.