

*Adjournment Debate*

For example, the federal Government has funded more than 380 projects under the Distribution System Expansion Program, which helps distributors finance expansion of their pipeline networks. In the Natural Gas Laterals Program the federal Government is financing \$500 million of pipeline expansion in the Province of Quebec. To complement this program we also introduced the \$100 million Gas Marketing Assistance Program to minimize gas contracting risks for Quebec distributors.

• (1825)

To further encourage the use of natural gas and other alternative energy sources, the Canada Oil Substitution Program has provided close to 360,000 Canadian energy consumers with funds to convert off-oil. Of this number, more than 130,000 have chosen natural gas. This program helps the producer. It helps Canada achieve self-sufficiency. It also provides a stimulus to the economy.

The Government is keeping its commitment to maintain the wholesale price of gas in eastern Canada at about two-thirds of the price of oil. Just last month a major step was taken in honouring its pricing promise when the Government announced an 18-cent reduction in the natural gas and gas liquids tax. This reduction will keep gas prices in new eastern Canadian markets at approximately 65 per cent of crude oil.

The tax reduction will also mean that although gas producers have benefited from the recent Alberta border price increase with an additional \$235 million in increased cash flow, eastern consumers will feel only minimal effects of those rising costs and lower consumer prices will be realized in British Columbia and Alberta.

No one can argue that the federal Government has not put into place crucial measures conducive to the optimal utilization of our rich natural gas resources.

I can appreciate that there has been much concern over the Government's natural gas export policy. We certainly acknowledge that an increase in exports can have a very positive effect on our economy. New export volumes could provide close to \$10 billion in revenue to the Canadian gas industry this decade, and they could generate close to \$5 billion in investment in the construction of new facilities in the country.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 a.m.

At 6.27 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.