

Urea Formaldehyde Insulation Act

Mr. Blenkarn: They received their licence numbers with respect to being licensed installers under the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Mr. Ouellet: No, that is not true.

Mr. Blenkarn: And you went ahead. The minister says it is not true. Well, I will go over those facts. I say they are true, that this government certified the contractor—

Mr. Ouellet: It is the product.

Mr. Blenkarn:—certified the material, certified who should be doing it. Mr. Stewart, whom I spoke of earlier, went back to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation office and they gave him the list of approved contractors and said, "You had better have the approval number of the contractor. Do not hire anybody who is not approved." Well, that is whom he hired, a CMHC approved contractor, that is how he is in trouble, that is his claim against the Government of Canada.

Mr. Ouellet: You are misinformed.

Mr. Blenkarn: The minister says I am misinformed. Well, I must say, Sir, that the representations made by installers were that they were approved by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Indeed, the grant program was to approved installers only.

Sir, let us go further, before I finish what I want to say. This product does in fact reduce heating costs, and reduces them substantially. But this product has been declared by the government to be unsafe or not valid as insulation material. The government has a problem. In effect, the government has a damage action being brought against it. Indeed, it is being sued by all sorts of people across the country. The government has an obligation, the same as I would have if I made an error in judgment and ran into your car in an automobile accident, an obligation to make good your damages. If I were a chartered accountant and I issued a financial statement upon which you relied to buy shares in a company covered by that statement, and if that statement was in error and you were misled by it, then I would have an obligation to pay you for your loss. The government has an obligation to go in and clean up the mess. That does not necessarily mean taking the foam out, but it does mean certifying to the people who own the homes that the homes are safe from now on. It is the obligation of this government, not of the Government of Ontario or of the Government of Quebec. It is the obligation of this government. I see it is six o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock, the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

[English]

Mr. Penner: Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order to seek the unanimous consent of the House to revert to that stage in our proceedings known as presenting reports from standing and special committees.

Madam Speaker: Does the House unanimously agree to revert to that part of the proceedings?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Madam Speaker: The hon. member does not have unanimous consent.

Mr. Pinard: Madam Speaker, I understand we now have a House order to revert to statements, but I want it to be noticed that unanimous consent was just denied by the Tory party.

[Translation]

Madam Speaker: Pursuant to the order made earlier this day, the House will now revert to statements by ministers.

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[English]

NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM

PRESENTATION OF "NATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM: UPDATE 1982"

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, I rise in the House tonight to present hon. members with an update report on the National Energy Program. I am pleased to report on what has already been done in just over 18 months and what we will do to maintain our full momentum toward complete success.

Initially, I would like to table, in English and French, a document entitled "The National Energy Program: Update 1982", *Mise à Jour: Programme Énergétique National, 1982*.

On October 28, 1980, my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen), rose in the House at about this time in the evening to present our ambitious and comprehensive plan to chart Canada's energy course through this decade and beyond. The energy challenges facing Canada were great, but they also fostered great opportunities. We have come a long way since then. We have made remarkable and sustained progress toward reaching the major goals of the National Energy Program.

Mr. Huntington: How many barrels have you produced?

Mr. Lalonde: This success is all the more notable because it was achieved in the face of difficulties created in Canada by the world economic recession.

Mr. Blenkarn: And by the Liberal Party.