

Having acquired some perspective on developments abroad, it was time to add depth to the inquiry and a final round of 28 public hearings was held in Ottawa. Those hearings pursued more detailed aspects of alternative energy and were completed on 11 December 1980. Thereafter the Committee began preparing its Report to Parliament.

During its study the Committee exercised its authority to retain the services of experts. Assistance on specific issues was provided by Middleton Associates of Toronto, by the Economic Council of Canada and by Professor John Holdren of the University of California at Berkeley. To help convey its ideas and findings to the public, the Committee hired the graphics firm Les Illustrateurs of Hull, Québec and Rockland, Ontario. And, under the aegis of the Library of Parliament, the Committee engaged Professor Benoît Jean, of the Institut national de la recherche scientifique in Varennes, Québec, to provide peer review for the final Report.

The reader will note that the order of reference directed the Committee to report upon the "utilization of alternative energy sources". We recognize the point of view which stresses dealing with the demand side of the energy equation rather than the supply side. While we agree that the management of energy demand is of at least comparable importance in Canada, our Report necessarily treats only the subject of alternative energy supply in detail.

We further recognize that our investigation has not exhausted all avenues of approach even in the restricted domain of alternative energy. Rather we have laid the subject out in broad terms, leaving many signposts along the way where we think more detailed work is desirable (or essential). In so doing, the Report outlines the Committee's view of the appropriate evolution of Canada's energy system.

Our final comment here is a technical one. Energy statistics can be baffling both because of terminology (not always consistently used) and because Canada has recently instituted a new system of measurement (SI or the International System of Units). In the spirit of "going metric", we have emphasized the new system in this Report while putting considerable effort into showing the equivalence between English and SI units. The problem of terminology in the energy field is less easily handled. We have selected those definitions which seemed most appropriate for our purposes and have tried to be consistent in their application. Terms and concepts are defined as they arise, and units and conversion factors are gathered into Appendix A for ease of reference. Monetary values are understood to be in current Canadian dollars unless otherwise specified.