

### *Solar Energy*

nies preparing solar equipment can get ready for tax incentives that we are prepared to offer them when we become the government.

My bill was ruled out of order because an expenditure of money would have been required. Even though I was as devious as I could be, it was still ruled out of order. I realize the problem you would have had in allowing the bill to go forward.

I commend the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia) for being successful at something at which I failed. I see in one area of the bill that with this institute we could in fact set up a standards association and provide the kind of directives that are necessary in the solar field. Companies could then provide the standards to consumers who want to purchase solar equipment. The consumers would know they were getting something they could depend on, something that would give them service for 15 to 20 years.

At the outset I want to go through the three recommendations in the bill one by one and give some of my thoughts on them. Clause 4(a) of the bill reads:

—to facilitate the production by Canadian manufacturers of solar energy equipment and parts by examining, testing and studying proposed products and assisting in the development of prototypes suitable for manufacture;—

That is a good clause. I again emphasize that within that clause we can fit an area whereby standards can be established and legislation brought forward. These standards could be established once the Canadian Standards Association and the Ontario Research foundation come up with suggested standards. I hope that will be done this spring because it is very essential. It reminds me of a quote from Halacy:

The makers and installers of solar equipment are a weird and wonderful lot, ranging from giants like General Electric and Honeywell through geniuses with no capital to backlot entrepreneurs who will sell a homeowner two 3' by 6' panels to heat his home through a Maine winter.

He is trying to say it is very important that standards be established and that they be established quickly. It is essential that members of parliament and the government be involved in this matter because there are many questions to be answered. If we do not get involved in attempting to answer these questions, the bureaucracy may argue for some length of time and we will never get to actually having this put in place and convincing consumers that it is a good buy.

● (1730)

Who will be responsible for testing? I believe it is essential that the government be responsible for that and that it set up a facility capable of testing solar panels and solar equipment year-round, because I foresee that there will be great interest in manufacturing these items. I believe there are about 100 firms in Canada which are capable of manufacturing solar equipment, and they all want their equipment tested. I think now that would be impossible during the winter season, and therefore it is essential that there be a facility capable of testing this equipment all year round.

Once a particular unit has been approved and a stamp of approval applied to it, then if that unit is slightly changed or

[Mr. Schellenberger.]

improved, we will have to decide whether it must go through the testing procedure again so that it can be recommended again. We will have to see that standards are not too rigid and that they do not discourage companies from bringing their products forward, but we will also have to see that the standards are not too flexible so as to allow certain manufacturers to get approval for solar equipment which will not stand up.

I think the government should move quickly to set up regulations and to invite people who are now working in this field to make recommendations so that we can get on with testing products, so that stamps of approval will be on them when incentives are provided and so that more consumers will be aware of solar energy. The part of the bill dealing with this is for the most part good, and I think we can improve it in such a way that I could support it.

In clause 4(b) the hon. member for Davenport suggests that this institute sponsor, encourage, and promote continuing research in Canada in respect of the application and use of solar energy, and further the development in Canada of solar energy technology. That is very important, particularly when we consider the record of this government with regard to making announcements supposedly to help people involved with renewable energy and solar energy.

On July 4 the minister stated that he would make available \$125 million between 1979 and 1984 under a program called PUSH. That program is designed to assist in the purchase and use of solar energy. This was an attempt by the government to help manufacturers by supplying extra dollars for purchasing equipment to put into federal buildings so that there would be a solar presence in those buildings. That is a good program which has much potential. Spreading \$125 million over five years suggests that \$25 million should be made available every year, but already there is a memo circulating in the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources stating that the \$25 million allotted this year should be reduced to \$1.5 million. The announcement to which I referred earlier was made almost three quarters of a year ago, but the program is not really off to any start at all because rather than \$25 million being put forward it looks as though only \$1.5 million will be put forward.

If there are some problems, I think the public should be made aware that it is impossible to start with the program this year. However, every indication should be made that in the following four years this money will be allocated and that solar equipment manufacturers will be assisted. This program could also be of assistance with regard to testing and the establishment of standards, because a certain amount of risk would otherwise be taken by the consumer. This program could be of benefit to the consumer, however, because once these products are tested consumers would be willing to use this technology in their facilities.

Another program called the Program of Assistance to Solar Energy Manufacturers, PASEM for short, has been announced. It seems to be off to a good start. I looked in the supplementary estimates and found that \$600,000 has already