

*Oral Questions***ENERGY****MUNICIPAL ENERGY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance and the Deputy Prime Minister. I have learned that the municipal energy management program, which is a \$23 million conservation program to train energy auditors, and is part of the National Energy Program which the minister read out in the House in his first budget, is in danger of being cancelled. I have a letter from the Mayor of Vancouver indicating that such is the case. Can the Minister of Finance confirm that indeed the government is cutting back on energy conservation programs?

Why is the minister prepared to give \$600 million to oil companies operating in the Beaufort Sea, and goodness knows what other additional moneys to Dome Petroleum, next week or thereafter, while cancelling important programs which really could conserve energy and make us energy self-sufficient?

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, with reference to the subject raised by the hon. member, he should realize that conservation is a major element of the National Energy Program. However, with reference to the particular subject matter, the Government of Canada is encountering difficulties in its negotiations with the various provinces concerning this program. As a result, a complete review is taking place at present as to whether or not we will pursue this particular program.

ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my supplementary question is for the Minister of Finance. He has been standing up in this House day after day, together with his colleague, the Prime Minister, saying that with the collapse of the energy megaprojects, such as Alsands and the Alaska gas pipeline, that other energy megaprojects are coming along. Apparently it is now confirmed that the program to which I refer is on hold. It is a small program worth \$23 million but, according to the Mayor of Vancouver, this program will provide jobs and it will really have an impact on energy conservation in the country. What is the Government of Canada's program now? Is it to cancel energy conservation programs in return for putting more money into these megalooser projects?

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Madam Speaker, the hon. member refers to one particular program in relation to conservation. However, he refuses to acknowledge the success of some of the conservation programs announced in the National Energy Program. I refer him to the Canadian oil substitution program and to the home insulation program, which have been major success stories of the National Energy Program. The problem which the hon. members raises is of particular concern to the Government of Canada. However, negotiations

with the provinces have not been proceeding well. Our government is intending to review not only our negotiating position but indeed the positions taken by the various provincial governments. It is hoped that the matter will be resolved. However, I do not wish to raise false expectations with the hon. member, and he should be prepared to place some of the blame on the various provincial governments.

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NATIONAL RESOURCES**REFERRAL TO SUPREME COURT OF OWNERSHIP OF HIBERNIA OIL FIELD RESOURCES**

Hon. John C. Crosbie (St. John's West): Madam Speaker, in the absence of the Prime Minister and of the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, my question is for the Deputy Prime Minister. The Minister of Justice said in this House yesterday that no decision had been made at that time, less than 24 hours ago, about referring the offshore mineral resources dispute question to the Supreme Court of Canada. This morning he proceeded to Newfoundland and the Prime Minister telexed the Newfoundland government stating that the question was today filed with the Supreme Court of Canada. The reference has been filed today referring the issue of the Hibernia oil field's ownership to the Supreme Court of Canada. There has to be some explanation for this.

Today the Minister of Justice met with the leader of the Liberal Party of Newfoundland—the defeated Liberal leader—rather than with the minister of justice for Newfoundland. He refused to meet with the minister of justice before holding his press conference. Why has the government interfered in the orderly handling of this matter by the Canadian court system, the matter having already been referred to the Appeal Division of the Newfoundland Supreme Court? That court has already set dates for factums to be filed. It has fixed October 8 as the date to set the hearing. Why is the government interfering? Does it not trust the Newfoundland court after its constitutional decision?

• (1430)

Does the Acting Prime Minister not realize that court decisions will never settle this issue, which is an issue of justice and fair treatment for the people of Newfoundland, our tenth province?

Madam Speaker: Order.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, I am surprised that the hon. member would conclude his question by saying that no court would ever decide this matter, when he himself in his opening sentence suggested that it was somehow improper for the federal government to proceed to the Supreme Court of Canada, while the matter or several related matters were before the Supreme Court of Newfoundland. The gist of his question was: why has the federal government gone to the Supreme Court?