

*The Address—Mr. Milne*

After all, we have done this for the environmentalists. During the past few years there has been concern in Canada about the quality of the environment, and we have directed industry to clean up and, in some cases, to use higher quality fuel. We have made it possible through the tax structure for improved equipment to be installed. Now the argument has swung the other way and we are concerned about energy conservation. I suggest that concern about energy perhaps is equally important, or even more important. Perhaps we could use some of the tax incentives that were used to promote the aims of the environmentalists to promote conservation of energy.

● (1650)

I like to think that the government, through its research activities and programs, will be substantially involved in trying to improve the efficiency by which electricity is generated. Possibly by the year 1990, and definitely by the year 2000, 25 to 30 per cent of all energy used in Canada will be used solely to generate electricity. Just think what a boon a 5 per cent improvement in how we generate electricity would be and how we use our resources.

When we talk about heat efficiency it is really the relationship of the amount of energy we use to generate it versus the amount of electrical energy that is generated. There is a lot of room for improvement. Most of this relates to the metallurgical process in terms of the degree of heat that available metals today will stand. I think this is a very useful area in which the government should be involved.

When we talk about concern where there is a large national interest, it may be that some of the leverage the government has should be used. The government should take a very serious look at the Canadian building code. We build acres and acres of large industrial buildings, and we call for very little or minimum insulation in any of them. We do not have a concerned attitude about making buildings energy efficient in terms of the amount of insulation. To do so would really only increase the cost by a very small percentage. In terms of improving the thermal capabilities of the building, we are talking about a small amount of money.

While the building code must apply with a very broad application and to many concerns, there is still room for improvement.

I would like to see the government go further in terms of publishing comparative data on equipment that is often used by major users of energy. I think, for example, of air

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conditioners. My information is that some air conditioners are as much as 30 per cent more efficient in terms of energy utilization than others. Surely this should be a concern of the manufacturing and producing sectors. The government can perhaps play a role in that area.

I wish to make one or two other points in speaking of energy. In terms of the broad problem we are dealing with and the importance of it, I have often wondered about giving some thought to our export contracts. Canada and Canadians have a great vested interest in terms of energy export contracts. There are those who say these should be phased out, there should be higher prices, and so on. There is some validity in that. There is also concern that we may seriously damage the United States economy by so doing. We have a very great vested interest in that. We must also consider that we import a considerable amount of energy from the United States in the form of coal for Ontario.

The United States are in a very critical position at this time in relation to energy. They have vast reserves of petroleum on the North Slope. We might explore with our American friends some means of allowing them to use more of our resources at this time, if those resources are replaced by others as they are developed on the North Slope. We would pay the same price as that at which we are now exporting to the United States. This would be of some help to their critical problem. It would preserve one of the great advantages our industrial base should have, namely, medium or low priced energy for its use. If we could negotiate some type of arrangement like that it would be in the best interests of both countries.

There is one other point about which I feel very strongly. It concerns government allotments in the budget for research. Every Canadian can, and should stand just a little bit taller because of the tremendous success of CANDU. However, we should not stop here, pause, and say we have done a good job. There is much more to do. We need to move quickly into the area of breeder reactors. I would like to think that Canada could be one of the world leaders in terms of research, and prototype engineering the establishment of fusion. Whichever gets to the threshold first will be the country with a future that will be envied by all nations. It is the type of country I want Canada to become.

I notice my time is almost up. I wanted to put forth some very strong views about the MacKenzie Valley pipeline. I had hoped I would have time to talk about the food problem I raised earlier. I wanted to comment on what I think are some of the problems facing that industry, and what I think is the relationship that marketing boards