

[Translation]

### ENERGY

REQUEST DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKE RESEARCH INTO GASOHOL

**Mr. Pierre Gimaiel (Lac-Saint-Jean):** Madam Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources who has just given our country an efficient energy strategy for the next ten years. Knowing the government objectives aimed at energy self-sufficiency within the shortest delay, can the minister tell the House if his department intends to intensify research into gasohol and, if so, how?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, we have set aside a huge amount to develop new energy sources. Several hundred million dollars have been earmarked for research and development over the coming years. In fact we have allocated some \$240 million more for the ongoing research program to promote research and development, particularly in the field of new energy sources. I said \$240 million but the exact figure is \$260 million. Obviously gasohol is one of the new forms of energy which will be eligible for subsidies for research and development.

\* \* \*

[English]

### ENERGY CONSERVATION

PROGRAMS RESPECTING ENERGY EFFICIENT APARTMENT BUILDINGS

**Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey):** Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Just on that last point and by way of clarification, I wonder if he could check those figures again. My understanding is that the figure of \$260 million is for the total research and development of energy, which would include also nuclear, not just renewables.

My question concerns what appears to be a gap in the national energy program which might affect tenants of both small and large apartment buildings who are forced to pay their own heating bills. Can the minister tell the House whether he has in mind any way that landlords might be encouraged to develop programs for retrofitting or to do things to their buildings to make them more energy efficient? Because they have no incentive now when indeed the tenants are paying their own heating bills.

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, on the first point I want to stress that the \$260 million for research and development over the next three years will be additional to, or over and above, the hundreds of millions of dollars already spent by the federal government, the largest share of it having gone into nuclear. That additional \$260 million, the overwhelming share of it, will be in the non-nuclear field and in new forms of energy, renewable forms of energy, particularly.

### Oral Questions

As far as the question raised by the hon. member is concerned, our program for insulation obviously is one which is available to all forms of houses. While it is true that in many instances the heating bill is paid by the tenant, it is also true that in many instances the owner-landlord is also contributing to that cost. I think it would be extremely difficult to devise a scheme whereby we could start differentiating between landlords or between landlords and tenants. This program is of a general nature. It is one that is of benefit to all Canadians. We encourage all landlords and tenants to support this particular program and to make use of it. I think any home owner, whether it is his own house which he occupies or whether he is the landlord, will find that he will benefit from insulating the house and reducing heating costs.

**Mr. Gurbin:** Madam Speaker, again my question is directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. I should like to ask the minister how far he thinks \$500 will go to insulate a 100-unit apartment building? Because that is the limit of the available resources for those landlords. I am quite happy to see research and development in nuclear continue, but as far as I can understand from the national energy program, that \$260 million includes \$100 million for research into nuclear energy and waste disposal. I think that is appropriate, but I think we need more in renewables.

Finally, would the minister consider extending the provisions for retrofitting and insulation which go beyond CHIP in the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, so that other areas in the country which do not have the opportunity to switch to natural gas, areas where electricity costs are very high, or indeed areas where people are already on natural gas but have very poor housing, can take advantage of this extra money?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Madam Speaker, I should like to point out to the hon. member that we are eagerly awaiting the report of the parliamentary task force on renewable energy. What I have seen and heard of the work of that task force seems to be very positive and we are looking forward to receiving that report. Once we have received it and if additional funds are required in this area, we will be very happy to allocate the necessary funds to answer any new worth-while initiatives which are not specifically mentioned in the program. We have set aside some money in order to answer the proposals which might come from this parliamentary task force.

As to the suggestion of the hon. member, it is a worth-while one. Certainly I will take it into consideration to see whether we can make further adjustments to our program later on, bearing in mind his representation.