

*Oral Questions*

the Prime Minister if he will now table in the House all the documents that were relevant to the cabinet in reaching the decision that it made last Thursday?

**Mr. Lalonde:** They were annexed to *Hansard*.

**Mr. Trudeau:** Madam Speaker, as to the preamble to the question, I just want to point out to the hon. member that he is right in saying when I wrote in March that those were the laws which then stood. He knows, because he has been told many times and it has been debated in this House, that that law, being condition 12 of annex 3, has since been changed, under the provisions of the act, by the National Energy Board.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Trudeau:** If Parliament authorized the law to be changed under certain conditions and those conditions are fulfilled, then it is the law that applies. I repeat to the hon. member that since my letter was written in March, talking about the financing of the whole, there have arisen conditions where the NEB and many interests in Canada have said "Okay, that is for the whole line, but we want the government to address the problem of the pre-build," which we have done since then.

As to the question about tabling of documents, I understand that most of these documents have already been annexed to *Hansard*. But if there are other documents which, under the freedom of information act, should be made public, I can assure the hon. member that they will be made public.

\* \* \*

## ENERGY

## GOVERNMENT POSITION ON CONSERVATION

**Mr. G. M. Gurbin (Bruce-Grey):** Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. In 1975 at the beginning of the first attempted major energy conservation program, the then minister of energy, the hon. Donald Macdonald, was quoted as saying:

The government is not asking Canadians to shiver in cold houses, stumble about in the dark or suffer hardship.

Would the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, after we have had five years of increasing oil imports and prices, international shortages and decreasing domestic oil supplies that have left us on the brink of crisis, be willing to admit to the House that his government has not had a real national energy policy?

[Translation]

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** No, Madam Speaker.

[English]

**Mr. Gurbin:** Madam Speaker, my supplementary is again directed to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Will the minister admit to the House that his conservation program

is really just an off-oil program and that during this parliamentary recess he is going to spend \$12 million on PR to explain it instead of bringing forward major conservation efforts?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Again, Madam Speaker, I would have to answer no. However, I might expand by saying that we have a conservation program and policy in this country which has been examined and lauded by many other countries. Whether it is in the area of the home insulation program, the area of substitution off-oil, the area of helping citizens, and industry in particular, to reduce the energy component in units of output, the Government of Canada has been providing leadership with the co-operation of industry and of private citizens in this country. I hope that in the weeks to come the government will be able to enlarge and expand those opportunities. I hope also that we will be able to start the alternate energy corporation in such a way that Petro-Canada will have a subsidiary which will provide additional leadership in this area. I could go on enumerating other actions of this government and other very good developments which have produced excellent results for this country.

## FUNDS ALLOCATED TO NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL SOLAR PROGRAM

**Mr. Bill Wright (Calgary North):** Madam Speaker, my question is also for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources. Is the minister aware that the National Research Council solar program could not fully use its allocated \$10 million budget in the last fiscal year?

**Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources):** Madam Speaker, for the most part this would have been under the Conservative administration, and I will have to inquire from my predecessor as to why he allowed such a situation to develop.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** Spend, spend, spend.

**Mr. Lalonde:** I can assure him that when the alternate energy corporation is set up we will have an organization that will be concentrating exclusively on new forms of energy, and that solar energy will be one of the areas where that corporation is going to be able to concentrate.

**Mr. Wright:** Madam Speaker, that sounds like another flip-flop on the part of this government. The minister of energy should know that the fiscal year ends in March. As this shows a failure to appreciate the requirements of managing a research facility and also demonstrates in part the reasons why we are falling behind in energy technology, will the minister consult with the Minister of State for Science and Technology to help him understand and make better use of resources already allocated?

**Mr. Lalonde:** Madam Speaker, again I would have to put the blame on the previous minister of science and technology under the previous government for what happened last year. I