

time in the election as it did the last time. Indeed, in 1979 the Liberals tried amending the program right in the middle of the election period in order to see if they could grab a few more votes. The Hon. Member will know that at that time the then Liberal Minister, the Hon. Alastair Gillespie, was running in Etobicoke Centre and that the now Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) represents the riding of Etobicoke Centre.

Mr. Boudria: I am very pleased to answer that question, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, if the Hon. Member had listened carefully to my speech he would know that 89 per cent of the people of my riding own their own homes, but not 89 per cent of the people in my riding are rich. As a matter of fact, I also described where the average annual income of the people in my riding, according to Statistics Canada is less than that of the people in the rest of the country. The average annual income in my constituency is \$1,000 less than the income of the average Canadian and 89 per cent of the people own their own homes. So yes, a majority of poor people in my riding own their own homes. That is a fact.

Why is it that this program will benefit the poor rather than the rich? It is simply because the poor don't have any money. Perhaps that has not gotten across to the Hon. Member opposite. Rich people can convert their heating system to something which will be cheaper. They can do it without assistance. But the poor people cannot. That is why they are poor, Mr. Speaker. They need that kind of assistance. That is the basis of social programs. We help out the people who need it, not just the rich, which is something the Conservatives want to do.

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I very much enjoyed the speech given by the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria). The Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes) is not here but it certainly does alarm me to find out how little Hon. Members opposite, and certainly the Hon. Member for Calgary West, understand Canada. That is really horrifying to me. The Hon. Member for Calgary West used half of his speech to talk about job creation in the country within the oil industry. Little does he know, Mr. Speaker, that—

Mr. Blenkarn: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The Hon. Member's question and comment should be made with respect—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Does the Hon. Member wish to speak on a point of order?

Mr. Blenkarn: I think this time is for questions and comments on the speech of the Hon. Member for Glengarry-Prescott-Russell (Mr. Boudria), not on what was said or was not said by the Hon. Member for Calgary West (Mr. Hawkes). Surely that is not the question before us and the Hon. Member is misusing the time, I submit.

Mr. Henderson: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly rephrase my comment and say that Hon. Members opposite obviously don't understand what Canada is all about. My province of Prince

Oil Substitution Act

Edward Island has the highest energy costs in Canada, the highest electricity, oil and gasoline costs.

Mr. Foster: And a Tory Government.

Mr. Henderson: Does the Hon. Member believe for one minute that people who are burning wood for fuel, a renewable resource, are not creating employment in this country? They may not be creating employment in downtown Calgary but they are certainly creating it in my part of the country. Poor people have obviously benefited greatly from the off-oil program; there's no question about that. Not only the poor people are benefiting, those who convert to wood, but also the suppliers of furnaces, chain saws, and skidoos, which most small woodlot owners use to take the wood out to sell. There is a tremendous spin-off and benefit, especially in an area which is depressed. We have a silviculture program which also is a follow up because there is good woodlot management in my area and, hopefully, also in New Brunswick and the other Atlantic Provinces. Sure, we may lose a few jobs in downtown Calgary if the oil industry fluctuates a bit, but we are creating jobs elsewhere. We are creating jobs with renewable energy resources which are just as important as, and probably more important than, oil. Oil is a non-renewable resource. The more that is used, the scarcer it gets and the higher the price.

I am delighted with the speech my colleague gave on this very important subject. I think Hon. Members of the House of Commons have certainly forgotten that they are looking after their own special interests when they deal with just one sector of the energy question. I believe in the ridings of all Hon. Members which are not fortunate enough to be situated in the heart of an industrialized city or province there is a great spin-off, a job-creation effect. Many of our poor people cannot afford to pay \$2.20 a gallon for home heating fuel, the price in Prince Edward Island. The Hon. Member probably does not realize it, but for a 250-gallon tank of fuel you are talking about a price of over \$500 in Prince Edward Island. Who can afford it?

• (1220)

Mr. Boudria: Mr. Speaker, I want to respond to the excellent comment made by my colleague here. I would just point out that in Prince Edward Island some 312 residential units participated in the CHIP Program with an average grant value of \$10,048. In that same province, under the HIP program, some 29,643 residential units received grants of an average value of \$9,903 each. So we can see the great benefit this program had in Prince Edward Island.

If I can turn very briefly to the COSP Program in Prince Edward Island, there were \$4.4 million in grants. So again, both programs were very effective in Atlantic Canada, indeed everywhere else in the country, including my own riding of Glengarry-Prescott-Russell, and in Ontario generally where over one million homes were reinsulated under the CHIP Program.

Mr. Don Blenkarn (Mississauga South): Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any question that every program government