

*Oil Substitution Act*

some way I was seeking deliberately to mislead the House. I think he would want to withdraw that suggestion.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** With respect to the Hon. Member for Burnaby, the Chair did not have that impression. Therefore, the Chair rules that the Hon. Member does not have to withdraw. The Chair gives the floor to the Hon. Member for Burnaby on debate.

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Speaker, on the point raised by the Hon. Member for Brampton-Georgetown (Mr. McDermid), I would say that if at this point there is a single Hon. Member on the Government side who is prepared to stand and defend this Bill, I would be quite pleased to sit down and listen with care and concern to the viewpoint of that Hon. Member. I would be pleased to defer to any Government Member anywhere who is prepared to stand and defend this Bill at this time. I would be quite prepared to suggest that we adjourn while the Hon. Member finds someone.

**Mr. McDermid:** You have the floor. Give up the floor.

**Mr. Robinson:** No one is standing, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. McDermid:** We can't rise. You are on the floor. Sit down and let someone rise.

**Mr. Robinson:** No one is prepared to rise and defend this Bill.

**Mr. McDermid:** Sit down and try us.

**Mr. Robinson:** That is not surprising, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. McDermid:** Sit down.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I would ask the Hon. Member to resume debate, please.

**Mr. McDermid:** Sit down.

**Mr. Robinson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I am sure that those Hon. Members will have an opportunity on Monday—

**Mr. Gormley:** We have somebody standing.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Am I correct in believing that the Hon. Member has completed his speech?

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. McDermid:** A typical NDP challenge.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member for Burnaby has the floor.

**Mr. Robinson:** Mr. Speaker, this legislation is legislation which is of vital concern to my constituents and to the people of Canada generally. What the Government is effectively doing in this important Bill is putting the interests of the corporate sector ahead of the interests of ordinary Canadians. If the Government was serious in its desire to reduce the deficit, then surely what it would have done is looked at the

massive hand-outs given to the oil companies instead of attacking Canadians who are taking advantage of a very sensible proposal to promote energy conservation. I know that Hon. Members of the Government will recognize that what this Bill is doing is effectively eliminating two very important energy conservation measures, the Canadian Oil Substitution Program and the Canadian Home Insulation Program.

We are opposed to this Bill, Mr. Speaker, and I am speaking now in support of the motion put by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Cassidy), which suggests a six-month hoist of the legislation. If it were possible to hoist it for six years or six decades, I would be prepared to move that as an amendment. But at the very least, a six-month hoist is an opportunity for Canadians to make their Members of Parliament on the Government side realize that the Government should not be kowtowing to the interests of the multinational oil companies in the way it is.

This important program was introduced in 1980 in order to provide financial assistance for the conversion of heating systems of residential, commercial and industrial buildings off oil to non-oil-fired heating systems. Owners convert to heating by natural gas, electricity, propane, wood, wind or solar energy. I might say, Mr. Speaker, that in my constituency of Burnaby in British Columbia there has been a very successful response to this program. Many of my constituents have taken advantage of the fact that they can be reimbursed for up to 50 per cent of the eligible costs of material and labour for conversions, with a maximum grant of some \$800. It was a bitter disappointment to us to learn that the Government intended to eliminate this important program.

I checked back very carefully, Mr. Speaker, to the records of Hon. Members who are now in the Government when they were out in the hustings on the campaign trail. I looked very carefully indeed, but nowhere, not anywhere in the country, did Hon. Members on that side of the House suggest to the people of Canada that they were going to attack energy conservation programs such as the Canadian Oil Substitution Program and the Canadian Home Insulation Program. No, Mr. Speaker, they were silent on that.

**Mr. McDermid:** Check my speech on that.

**Mr. Robinson:** The constituents of Brampton-Georgetown apparently were told that their Member of Parliament was prepared to stand in this House and vote for the elimination of these programs. I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the constituents of Brampton-Georgetown who are watching today should be aware of the fact that their Member of Parliament supports the elimination of these important programs which promote energy conservation.

**Mr. Waddell:** Unbelievable.

**Mr. Robinson:** At the same time, those Hon. Members of the Government are silent with respect to the gravy train for the multinational oil corporations—for instance, the PIP program which those Hon. Members have supported and which