

Oil Substitution Act

the weather is not as conducive to installing gas pipes in the winter months as it is in the summer months. Third, at this time of the year the companies who would be making furnaces for conversion to gas are making air conditioners for the summer season. So the companies are now forced to retool completely and change their systems in order to make furnaces to meet the demand. How many furnaces will the companies be able to make when they also have a tremendous demand for air conditioning systems?

Mr. McDermid: Name the companies.

Mr. MacLellan: Name the companies? Just ask them. There are many companies making gas furnaces.

Mr. McDermid: Name one.

Mr. MacLellan: The Hon. Parliamentary Secretary has asked me to name one company. He should call Consumers' Gas. That company will give him the names. The opposition from the Government is getting very testy. Which is the Government and which is the Opposition? It would seem that the Government is opposing the will of the people and the facts which the Opposition is providing. The Government is on the defensive. That should tell us something. The justification for terminating the Canadian Oil Substitution Program is not there.

The NDP has moved a motion that second reading of this Bill should be delayed for six months. The Liberal Party has requested that the program be extended for six months. Essentially, we are asking for the same thing, to give people who have applied for the program a chance to have the equipment installed. That is not asking too much.

The Minister has said that there is no need for the Canadian Oil Substitution Program and the Canadian Home Insulation Program. However, the Electrical Contractors Association of Ottawa has indicated that there is a serious shortage of electric heating equipment. Not only are we talking about the installation of gas systems, but there is not enough electric heating equipment.

There is a great demand from many Canadians, especially in southern Ontario, for this program. There are many other areas in the country which are facing the same problem. There is not enough time or equipment to be able to convert from oil heating systems. If the program was delayed six months, that would allow time for companies to manufacture the equipment, it would provide a better time of year in which to install the equipment, and the applicants could be serviced during that time.

In addition, there is a reduction in the contribution which will be made under the Canadian Home Insulation Program. The Government has reduced the contribution from two-thirds to 30 per cent, effective January 1. Certainly that is not a complete termination of the program, but for those who do not have enough money to insulate their homes, it is a serious diminution of the contribution which they would have

received. Essentially, a lot of Canadians are saying that the program is beyond their reach.

The concern is that Canadians should be able to take advantage of these programs. They are good programs. I do not think there is a Member in the House who would say that COSP and CHIP were not good programs. They provided a very definite benefit. As I said earlier, it was not only the \$800 which people received under COSP, or the \$500 under CHIP, but the information which they received, particularly with respect to COSP. The programs provided information with respect to costs, alternatives, and the standards which had to be provided by the suppliers of the equipment. The furnaces had to be CSA approved. Through the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, the Government provided a toll-free line so that Canadians could call the people who were administering the programs to get the information that they very badly needed. It was a quality program which helped a great many Canadians. I have not heard the Government say how they were going to give this same information and the same kind of assurance and protection to Canadians.

• (1550)

Mr. Svend J. Robinson (Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise to speak on this Bill. I must say I am somewhat surprised that none of the Conservative Members have seen fit to rise on behalf of their constituents to express concerns about the termination of two very important—

Mr. McDermid: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I know the Hon. Member would not want deliberately to mislead the House. An Hon. Member of the Government just spoke a few moments ago, the Hon. Member for Perth (Mr. Brightwell). I am sure that the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) would not want deliberately to mislead the House.

Mr. Waddell: He hadn't finished his sentence.

Mr. McDermid: I would ask him to apologize.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson) may resume debate on Bill C-24.

Mr. Robinson: I am sure that the Hon. Member who has just spoken would wish to withdraw his suggestion that I was deliberately misleading the House. He knows that those words are unparliamentary and I would ask the Chair to so find.

Mr. McDermid: On the same point of order, Mr. Speaker, I did not say that the Member was deliberately misleading the House. I said that I know the Hon. Member would not want deliberately to mislead the House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the Hon. Member satisfied with that?

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, I think the record will show clearly that the implication of the Hon. Member was that in