

Oil Substitution Act

set with knowledge of the restriction it represents for northerners. If such knowledge was present, I would suggest that the Government has been dishonest with Canadians in the north who are especially disadvantaged by high and increasing energy costs. The Minister must respond sensitively and favourably to the needs of people in northern Ontario who cannot act by doing what applicants in southern Ontario and the lower mainland in British Columbia are doing. They have been flooding Consumers Gas and B.C. Hydro with applications on which work can go ahead. There is not any possibility of installation of natural gas lines in northern Ontario until next June. The Parliamentary Secretary may have some information for me which I trust will be favourable. However, in the meantime my constituents have been approaching me with the problem they face. That is part of the unfairness of the early deadline in Bill C-24.

We had two programs which were of very great value in advancing energy conservation in the country. They produced potential reduction in costs for individual Canadians. That may still encourage some Canadians to go ahead with these endeavours aside from the program. The fact that CHIP in particular was taken advantage of by lower income home owners makes very questionable the possibility that these endeavours will continue once the program is ended.

The Minister was desperate to realize savings in her area, as practically all Ministers were expected to do. She settled on programs that were of value for energy conservation, efficiency, strengthening our country, and safeguarding the lives of people around the globe in the twenty-first century.

Mr. McDermid: Check the new Estimates.

Mr. Epp (Thunder Bay-Nipigon): The programs were of enormous value for those purposes. This early termination was a mistake. The Parliamentary Secretary tells me to check the Estimates. That suggests to me some second thoughts about this whole program. I do not want second thoughts of that sort. We want this Bill withdrawn or defeated so that the programs can continue and we can press on with the work of energy conservation to ensure that Canada can be world class in this area as well.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock p.m., I do now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS**TWIN-TRACKING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Hon. Chas. L. Caccia (Davenport): Mr. Speaker, yesterday the whole afternoon was taken up with an important issue that affects fishermen and the lives of our native people in the Fraser River Valley. We debated the unanimous motion which was passed by the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry recommending to the House of Commons that there be a one-year postponement of the CN twin-tracking project while the social and environmental impact on the 36 Indian bands most affected by this project are assessed, and that the economic justification for the CN twin-tracking be made available to the Alliance of Tribal Councils and others.

During the debate the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) and the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Crombie) expressed sympathy for, if not agreement with, the committee's motion. It was also noted that the final decision rests with the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) who has the authority to sign the necessary Order in Council.

Tomorrow, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) is expected to be in British Columbia to meet with the affected Indian communities in light of these developments. As a member of the standing committee, I urge the Minister of Transport to accept the unanimous request by the members of the Fisheries and Forestry Committee that the project be suspended for one year to allow the native people, the fishermen, and all other parties, to have their concern made known and taken into account before the final decision is made.

* * *

[Translation]

ADMINISTRATION**PERFORMANCE OF MINISTERIAL MEMBERS OF QUEBEC**

Mr. Gabriel Desjardins (Témiscamingue): Mr. Speaker, for days and even weeks, the Liberal Opposition has been baiting Government Members from Quebec about their so-called silence in this House.

Mr. Speaker, Quebec Conservative Members certainly do not have to be told how to behave by the Liberal Members from Quebec in this House. Today I want to ask the Hon. Member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre), the Hon. Member for Montréal-Sainte-Marie (Mr. Malépart) and the Hon. Member for Bourassa (Mr. Rossi) where they were in 1982, when their Government unilaterally patriated the Constitution without seeking Quebec's agreement, when only the Right Hon. Joe Clark and the Hon. Roch La Salle were truly defending the interests of Quebecers. Where were they when Pétromont's request for \$15 million was turned down? Where were they