

Oil Substitution Act

months when their heating bills have been as high as \$300 a month.

With regard to these northern areas, I am surprised that the Minister of State for Forestry (Mr. Merrithew) would not be encouraging the Government to maintain this program, if only for wood conversion.

Statistics show that it is in remote areas where the wood resource is available that this program was used to its greatest extent. Therefore, the Minister of State for Forestry has a vested interest in maintaining this program. People in those remote forested areas would simply pick up the debris off the logging roads if they could not get cutting permits. There is no question that there are enough fallen trees in our forests today to take care of all the woodstoves in any local area.

There are many rural areas in this country where the paper mills and private enterprise take advantage of softwoods. However, there are not many private entrepreneurs who make use of the hardwoods, which are left to die in the forests and create fire hazards. The Minister should have a special interest in this legislation for that reason, and he should suggest to the Minister responsible for this legislation that she maintain this program, if only for conversion to wood.

We are also debating an amendment for a six-month hoist. Such amendments are normally introduced for two reasons: either total disagreement with the Bill or a desire to put more pressing legislation before the Chamber. I think most Members in the House today would agree that there are more pressing matters facing the country today than that of eliminating a direct grant program to individuals. In fact, I would suggest that many would agree to a six-month hoist on all the legislation before the Chamber, because so much is happening that affects their constituencies which has not been explained by the Government. Those matters affect almost everything that happens with respect to transfers to individuals and their ability to take advantage of federal programs.

We have witnessed in the House this massive onslaught on transfers to individuals, no matter what program is involved. This was one of the easiest for the Government to attack. It was the only area in which it could make cuts. The Government will realize that there is very little that can be cut when it comes to transfers directly into the pockets of the Canadian people. Are you indicating that my time is up, Mr. Speaker? I will have to bow to your ruling.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, I enjoy listening to him, but his time has expired.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Pursuant to Standing Order 45, it is my duty to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: The Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong)—Trust Companies—Pioneer Trust Company collapse. b) Request for public inquiry; the Hon. Member for Algoma (Mr. Foster)—Canadian Wheat Board—Announcement of quotas and prices. b) Western Grain Stabilization Act—Advance payments; the Hon. Member for Calgary East (Mr. Kindy)—National Energy Program—Petroleum gas revenue tax—Status of negotiations with provinces.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

OIL SUBSTITUTION AND CONSERVATION ACT CANADIAN HOME INSULATION PROGRAM ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Wise (for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) that Bill C-24, an Act to amend the Oil Substitution and Conservation Act and the Canadian Home Insulation Program Act, be now read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works; and the amendment of Mr. Cassidy (p. 3072).

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the motion to postpone this Bill for six months. I see the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) across the aisle. I do not know if he is familiar with the history of this place. Bob McGregor was the Member for York East for 23 years. Silent Bob McGregor never said anything in the House, but he made one mistake. At the end of 23 years, he rose to actually make a speech, and was promptly defeated in the next election. I do not know what will happen to the Hon. Member for York East, but he is a good Member and participates well in the House. Let me address some remarks with respect to what he said.

I would point out to the Hon. Member that the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources has not conducted a study into the Canadian off-oil program. It has studied the CHIP program and that study showed CHIP to be a useful program and one that was used by middle and low-income Canadians.

I suggest that the Government would be wise to conduct a study into the off-oil program before it blindly axes a program. I do not believe the Hon. Member would take such action and