

The Address—Mr. Edwards

which will double the threshold level of the small producers' credit, are major steps in the right direction. As the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) has said, a healthy, thriving energy industry creates permanent productive jobs. When the oil patch works, it means business for the supply and service companies, the restaurants, hotels and hardware stores. It means thriving communities and healthy family life.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we are to have a renewal of a healthy, responsible Canadian internationalism. All Canadians, especially we Albertans who have the closest family, business and cultural ties with the United States, welcome the hand, and not the single digit, across the border extended by our Prime Minister. Those who fled tyranny in Eastern and Central Europe salute the new commitment to our North Atlantic allies. I am pleased to report that I have had calls during the past day from constituents concerning hunger relief. In one instance, the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton is recommending to its board of directors an expenditure of \$10,000 for Ethiopian and African relief. I had a call on Friday from a doctor at the Cross Cancer Institute in Edmonton, who himself comes from the Third World, who volunteered his six weeks' vacation time starting February 11 to go to Ethiopia at his own expense to be of assistance there. That is in the true spirit of Canadian internationalism.

Yet, overriding all these concerns, both economic and defence, is the ultimate *sine qua non*: the quest for peace. I am honoured to represent the riding adjacent to that of our distinguished Right Hon. Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) and to represent the people who sent to Parliament for so many years Mr. Douglas Roche, our new ambassador for disarmament. They must have our support and that of all Canadians. No goal is more elusive, but its dedicated and unrelenting pursuit is demanded by posterity.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Are there questions or comments on the Hon. Member's maiden speech?

Mr. Fulton: Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Member for Edmonton South (Mr. Edwards) on his first speech. I will leave it to you to rule; he is my mother's brother's wife's brother's son. I would like to congratulate him and welcome him to the House. I hope that my having revealed this unusual relationship will not keep him from becoming a frontbencher very quickly.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, if I could respond to that rather convoluted description, I think it is also fitting that there is something that makes political campaigns go, that is, financial support. I am very pleased, and I hope this is a harbinger for Canada's political future, that the common bond in this familial relationship is a long-time Liberal from Edmonton who contributed to the campaign of the Hon. Member for Skeena (Mr. Fulton) and to my campaign as a Conservative.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member mentioned an increase of two cents per litre in the price of oil and an increase in the price of home heating oil. Perhaps he could inform the House how this will protect the consumer and how single-parent families, most of whom are headed by women, how the aged living below the poverty line and the thousands of workers earning the minimum wage and on modest incomes, depending on the provinces—and I think in yours the situation is pretty rough—how is a two-cent increase for the consumer going to help him?

• (1730)

[English]

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, there are going to be difficulties. However, I think it is fundamental that the Hon. Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) stated in his remarks last Thursday night that the whole objective of the Government's policy is to protect the consumer from sudden fluctuations in cost. I can promise the Hon. Member that that will be taken into full consideration.

Mr. Orlikow: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct two questions to the Hon. Member. He suggested that moving toward world prices in oil would help the workers in Ontario. I invite the Hon. Member to explain how an increase in oil prices, which will have to be absorbed by the manufacturers in every province, will mean an increase in their price of production and will make them less competitive with other sources, can lead to anything but lay-offs?

The Hon. Member gave the usual and very understandable position of the Conservative Party with regard to the role of the private sector in the free enterprise system and downgraded government intervention. He then proceeded to complain that the free enterprise system should not be permitted to operate in a free way when it comes to broadcasting. He is opposed to the super stations. He wants CRTC to stop them. If he believes in the free enterprise system, surely there is no reason why the super stations should not be permitted to move ahead.

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having those two questions put to me by such a distinguished and senior Member of the House. I would like to respond to the first question with regard to the effect upon workers in Ontario of world price for oil. The world price for oil, Mr. Speaker, is part of the whole regime of energy policy which is designed to be a major engine for growth in the country. If in fact the NEP caused 90,000 jobs to be lost in the Province of Ontario, those are 90,000 Ontario workers who today would be employed.

In response to the question about free enterprise, my quarrel is not with the free enterprise system. My quarrel is with the fact that a bureaucratic quasi-judicial tribunal is ostensibly making governmental policy in the country. It is time that that policy was returned to the hands of the elected representatives of the people.