

the effect of closing the debate on the motion for second reading of this bill.

Senator Walker: Don't put up with that nonsense.

Senator Kelly: Honourable senators, I feel obliged to make one or two comments. After that impassioned address by Senator Olson I was quite shocked because I have seldom seen him so worked up.

Senator Olson: Senator Flynn caused all that.

Senator Kelly: I would like to put a slightly different light on what exactly is happening here. I said earlier that this government generally agrees that the Oil Substitution Program and the Home Insulation Program were good ones, given the conditions at the time.

Senator Olson: I agree.

Senator Kelly: However, I would point out that it is a little like contracting a disease, taking a medicine and getting better. You are never sure whether you got better because of the medicine or because you would have gotten better anyway.

Senator Olson: But you do not stop taking the medication in the middle of the treatment program

Senator Doody: You do if you cannot afford it.

Senator Kelly: As honourable senators may know, I was associated with a natural gas utility company. We were one of the largest in Canada. At the time the Oil Substitution Program came in, officials of that company advised me that if I had any way of persuading the government not to go ahead with it at that time, they would appreciate it, because they could not handle the demand for conversions they were faced with. Remember, people of the country were faced with a spectre of shortages caused by happenings in the Middle East. There were line-ups at the pumps and people were really concerned. I question whether the apparent result of the Oil Substitution Program was because of the program itself or the conditions that surrounded the advent of the program.

On the question of home insulation, perhaps I did not state my case clearly enough. People in North America in general have been great wasters of energy for years and years, because we have been beneficiaries of very low prices in global terms right up to 1973. And then in 1979 we were reminded that we had better take a good look, and the government decided to remind the public through the Home Insulation Program. It was a good idea, but to suggest that it should be carried on to me demonstrates a startling lack of confidence in the intelligence of the people of the country. I think people will make very intelligent buying decisions without being bribed into doing so, not to mention that they were bribed with their own

money. It is not necessary. There is no thought in the mind of this government that I know of that the program is to be removed because the Liberal administration introduced it. I do not know how to put it, other than to say to Senator Olson that, frankly, it is a silly statement.

Senator Olson: You have not given a better reason.

Senator Kelly: I have tried to.

Senator Roblin: It is a silly statement all right.

Senator Kelly: I think we will see a continuation of well-designed insulating programs, designs that were not really in place in 1977. I think people will continue to make good buying decisions about converting from one field to another, with a little less pressure because the oil scene is not quite as uncertain in the minds of people in the 1980s. I think you will see a government committed to monitoring what it does, not merely putting programs in place and leaving them there forever because they worked for the first year and, therefore, they should be left in place for the next 100 years. That is not the kind of government you are dealing with. I do not think that Senator Olson's fears are well founded at all.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time, on division.

The Hon. the Speaker *pro tempore*: Honourable senators, when shall this bill be read the third time?

On motion of Senator Kelly, bill placed on the Orders of the Day for third reading at the next sitting of the Senate.

THE HONOURABLE JOHN M. MACDONALD

FELICITATIONS ON TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF APPOINTMENT TO SENATE

Hon. Royce Frith (Deputy Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, before we go any further with the Orders of the Day, I see that the individual whose achievement we celebrated earlier today is now in the chamber. I think we should thump our desks in his honour again.

Hon. John M. Macdonald: I thank you for your kind remarks about me. However, I am not one who looks back over the years. I want to look forward.

Senator Frith: Another 25.

Senator Macdonald: I do not know how many honourable senators are aware, but on the third floor of this building there are two oil paintings of two senators. I made a point of inquiring as to why they were there. It turns out that both celebrated their one-hundredth birthday. It has been a pleasing custom and a tradition in the Senate that when a senator reaches the age of 100 his portrait is painted in oil and hung in the gallery.