

Oil Substitution Act

including northern Ontario. I must warn this Government that, notwithstanding its cozy relationship with the provincial Conservatives, we are probably going to be in a provincial election campaign in the very near future and the people of northern Ontario are going to be watching this Government to see what kind of message it is sending out concerning support for the north. The verbiage is fine, the appointment of northern Ministers is fine; but when you look at the bread and butter issues like the Canadian Oil Substitution Program, you see that the Government is clearly discriminating against residents of northern Ontario.

I know the Hon. Member for Cochrane-Superior spent the weekend travelling through the north with Ontario Party Leader David Peterson, and anyone who has travelled through the north will be able to tell this Chamber that the people of northern Ontario recognize the discrimination which exists in Bills like this one. It is fine for Members from Toronto to say: "No problem; we can meet the March deadline and get the installations done before the end of June". But if you live in an area where there is frost up until late April or early May, those kinds of installations are going to be almost impossible. I would think, Mr. Speaker, that of the 211 Government Members, there are many who must occupy themselves with constituency matters because they do not have responsibilities as Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries. I would think that at least these Members would be lobbying the Minister for an extension, if not a hoist of the Bill for six months, to allow those people living in northern communities to take advantage of the installation process. They could suggest to the Government that the northern portions of the country be allowed installations well into the summer. That would be of down to earth and practical assistance for Canadians. It would not be an esoteric attempt to obfuscate the fact that this Government is afraid to lead.

This Government has not said to the people it would table a plan for energy. It has not said it would table an agreement with Alberta. It has not come through with the hard decisions with respect to energy pricing and federal-provincial accords. Frankly, what this Government has introduced is a cheap attempt to tell the Canadian people that it is cutting back when the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is swelling his own coffers and increasing his own staff by 54 per cent.

The Prime Minister and the Government are saying to the Canadian people that they are going to cut off the Canadian Oil Substitution Program, one of the few programs which the Conservatives still have in place to assist working Canadians and people who are trying to own their own homes. Anyone who has considered the increasing mortgage rates and the recent move of CMHC to double the cost of mortgage guarantees will know that the Government has already added at least a \$3,000 burden on the average new home buyer across Canada. The people of Canada expect and want more from the Government.

● (1220)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question? The Hon. Member for Calgary East (Mr. Kindy).

Mr. Alex Kindy (Calgary East): Mr. Speaker, the Members of the Opposition are complaining because the Government is cutting a program here or there. They should ask themselves why the Government is cutting those programs. We have been in government for only six months and we inherited a deficit of \$35 billion this year. We have to put the house in order; it is as simple as that. We cannot continue spending and spending. There is a time when we must put the house in order and start governing.

In this country we have had programs for industry and for home owners, but these programs have not contributed to the economic growth of the country. I would like to ask the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) why she believes we should continue spending rather than studying the real problems of deficit reduction.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Is the House ready for the question? The Hon. Member for Brant (Mr. Blackburn).

Mr. Derek Blackburn (Brant): Mr. Speaker, I think the Member who was just on his feet thought we had a question period, but we are on short 10-minute speeches and do not. I would like to make a very brief intervention with respect to this Bill.

At the outset I would like to say how much I regret that the Government wants to get rid of the CHIP and COSP programs, both of which were extremely popular and effective. Shortly after the CHIP program was introduced I was in Washington with the acid rain sub-committee. Our American counterparts thought that it was such a wonderful program that they were going to make an effort to bring in a similar program in the United States. It was a very innovative program, as was COSP. Both of these programs directly benefited individuals. In the House we often talk about the little guy or the ordinary Canadian. These programs were targeted to ordinary Canadians and once again the Conservatives are ignoring ordinary Canadians by withdrawing both of these programs.

A few moments ago it was asked how we can continue to spend money and give grants. I agree that there is a very high deficit in the country of some \$35 billion. It is not quite correct to say that it is entirely the fault of the previous Government. Nonetheless, we have a very high budgetary deficit, as does the United States. That ultra conservative country to the south of us has the biggest deficit in its history and it is growing at a rate five times faster than ours. That is primarily the result of grants, expenditures, or tax breaks to the arms industry. Where are the moral standards of the Government? The Government is cutting off grant programs to ordinary Canadians which help them heat their homes more efficiently and at less cost. Its great Republican buddies to the south have racked up an almost \$200 billion deficit, most of which is spent