

at a reasonable pace. The persistent growth in deficits, uninterrupted since the mid-1970s, has become a serious impediment to reduced unemployment. Job creation and training initiatives as introduced by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) were needed for specific groups and most notably for our youth. But government spending on such national priorities must be financed by cuts in other budgetary envelopes. Individuals and corporations will both have to look less to the federal Government for assistance, subsidies and guarantees.

Bill C-24 is just one step in returning self-reliance to Canadians. The change in our attitude toward the role of government will have to be significant. That does not mean that we should return to the days before Governments provided a safety net of assistance to the unemployed, the poor, the sick and the others in need of help to achieve at least a minimal level of social well-being. There must, however, be greater self-reliance on the part of everyone else. As the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) has stated, either we make certain sacrifices now or we have larger deprivations imposed upon us in the future. Spending cuts do not have to be inhumane but it is inhumane to leave our economic affairs in such a state that we saddle our children and their children with a crushing burden of debt.

Canadians have placed great emphasis on economic independence in the past, both nationally and provincially, and there must now be awareness of economic interdependence among countries, provinces, businesses, labour and government. One-third of our national income and one-quarter of our jobs depend on exports. This means that we must meet international competitive standards and maintain good relations with our trading partners, principally the United States. We must recognize the close links between the provinces. There must now be a Canada policy rather than policies of individual provinces. Improved co-operation is indispensable.

We must address the appropriate role of government. We must get our fiscal house in order. We must attack the huge deficit right now. We must all make sacrifices if Canada is to be put back on a sound financial basis.

The COSP and CHIP programs have been successful. They provided grants to allow Canadians to convert to a cheaper form of heating fuel and also to insulate their homes. But let us face reality: these programs have served their usefulness. Canadians must now run their own affairs and make their own decisions. The foundations of a new fiscal policy are being laid and some hard facts must be accepted. Canadians working as a team can help our country reach its growth potential and they can build the future for this great country.

My support for Bill C-24 is unqualified. The Government trusts in this way and in others that it can prepare Canadians to do their share in renewing the strength and the vigour of our economy, something which is so essential to the future welfare of us all.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

### *Oil Substitution Act*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Questions and comments? Resuming debate.

**Mr. de Jong:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. When you called Bill C-24, Mr. Speaker, I was not in my seat. However, I had started my speech the last time this Bill was before the House. I would seek the unanimous consent of the House to be recognized now so that I might finish my remarks this afternoon.

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** We agree that the Hon. Member should be put in the position of speaking in the regular way. By all means, we give our consent to his proposal to speak.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Does the Hon. Member for Ottawa-Vanier (Mr. Gauthier) wish to rise on the same point of order?

**Mr. Gauthier:** We agree that the Hon. Member should have the floor for his remaining 16 minutes.

[*English*]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I understand there is unanimous consent?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Very well. I now recognize the Hon. Member for Regina East (Mr. de Jong).

**Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East):** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I give my special thanks to the Hon. Government House Leader, the Liberal Whip and all Hon. Members for extending this courtesy to me.

We are dealing with Bill C-24, the Act that would terminate the home insulation program and the Canadian off-oil program. When I spoke previously, I quoted from the submission of the City of Whitehorse of June, 1984 to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The submission claimed, based on figures from Statistics Canada and the national energy program update, that some \$17.2 billion had been committed and spent by the end of 1983 on the National Energy Program and this has resulted in production of only some 28,000 barrels of new oil per day. At that time I asked Hon. Members to compare this with the some \$1.3 billion that has been spent on the home insulation and off-oil programs. I stated that those programs had saved some 65,000 barrels of oil per day. More recent figures supplied by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources put that figure at closer to 75,000 barrels of oil per day.

The total energy savings attributed to the Canadian off-oil program, COSP, are estimated at roughly 70,000 barrels of oil per day. If a 65 per cent incremental value is assumed for COSP, the incremental value calculated for CHIP but not necessarily appropriate for COSP, then the oil savings attributed to this program becomes roughly 45,000 barrels per day. For CHIP, the total energy savings attributed to work under this program are estimated at the equivalent of 45,000 barrels of oil per day. In the absence of CHIP, the Department