

Oil Substitution Act

would have been 4,665 families who would have taken advantage of it, most of whom will no longer have that opportunity.

I visited Halifax recently and I can tell the House that the people in the City of Halifax are in a desperate housing situation. Any assistance that the Government could provide, through COSP and other programs, in upgrading and making available energy efficient housing across the country should be supported rather than negated as is currently the case.

[Translation]

In New Brunswick, we see that over 6,000 homeowners would have taken advantage of the program if it had been continued. Mr. Speaker, all Progressive Conservatives agree on this program. They agree like the yesmen from Quebec who all agreed that Domtar should be given subsidies, and agreed as well when the Government cancelled the subsidies. The same applies to the Bill before the House at this moment.

Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Nepean-Carleton (Mr. Tupper) said earlier it was a fantastic program that had reduced our dependence on non-renewable energy sources. If it was such a good program, if a third of Canadian homeowners who need this program today because they are still using non-renewable energy sources to heat their homes . . . But why do we not continue this program since the Government is introducing in the House an over-all program to deal with the energy issue in industry, homes and other areas?

● (1600)

[English]

I find it amazing, Mr. Speaker, that hon. members of the Government are lauding the benefits of this program and the effect it has had in encouraging Canadians to get off oil—which was in fact the original intention of the program—and pointing to figures which show that Canadians are becoming more energy efficient, at the same time as they cut the jugular of the very programs which have been at the forefront of this energy consciousness raising which we have seen happening over the last three years. I cannot understand why the first program which is to be cut by this Government is a program to help home owners.

Home owners perform a yeoman's service in this country. They develop the economy and create jobs. In fact, Mr. Speaker, they are the backbone of our economy. But, unfortunately, this Conservative Government, the Government of the small business person and the home owner, in its very first few months in office, has done more than its share to destroy the hope of young Canadians of ever owning their own homes. Government has cut off COSP, cut off CHIP, and has currently doubled the cost of mortgage insurance under CMHC. With one fell swoop of the pen the average home owner in Canada is going to have to pay another \$3,000 over the life of his or her mortgage. This has been done by a Government which purports to support home owners.

Mr. McDermid: That is pretty cheap insurance.

Ms. Copps: We have seen the CMHC mortgage insurance increase, the decision to terminate the COSP program, the decision to let CHIP run out—

Mr. McDermid: You let the insurance program operate in the hole.

Ms. Copps: The Deputy House Leader for the Conservatives seems to be prone to blather on from time to time.

Mr. McDermid: I just got a promotion.

Ms. Copps: You got a promotion and I am happy. I just wish, though, for one moment, that the Hon. Member would get up and make a statement or comment about this particular Bill.

Mr. McDermid: If you sit down, I will.

Ms. Copps: If the Hon. Member did, he would echo the statements of his own colleagues. As I said before, Mr. Speaker, it is like the Domtar question. Government Members love to stand up in the House on Standing Orders 21, beating their breasts and saying to the Canadian people—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Charest): Order, please.

[Translation]

Mr. Gérin: Mr. Speaker, this is just to give the Hon. Member a chance to collect herself and get back to the Bill before the House and contribute some fresh ideas instead of talking at random.

Ms. Copps: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Hon. Member did not understand the analogy I drew between Domtar and the COSP. It is just like what happened when the Prime Minister made his promise in Newfoundland . . . Now we see it did not mean a thing and that the Prime Minister was not as good as his word.

Mr. Speaker, we know the same applies to the Domtar case. We now know that the same Members who rise in the House and tell Canadians that it was a good program and that it worked well and encouraged all Canadians to save energy—those very same Members are deciding to terminate the program.

Mr. Speaker, they have the same attitude towards Domtar. Hon. Members say it is a good plan, Quebec Members are saying they need a subsidy for Domtar and at the very same time the Government decides to cut or rather refuses to give the subsidy. Mr. Speaker, that is why the Domtar case raises the same questions as the oil substitution program, and so, all Canadians should now ask themselves whether they can trust the credibility of this Government. Do they really stand behind everything they say in the House or are they merely using the House to deceive Canadians about their real motives? Mr. Speaker, if all Members who showed tremendous support for these programs still support them, why are they dropping the