

Oil Substitution Act

communist countries or, rather, countries with socialistic or communistic leanings, which is understandable. But it is not in Canada's interest to help most everybody, including the socialists and the communists, at the expense of our own economy and that of the Americans who are truly our closest allies. I suggest that Canada and all Canadians should take a direction which favours us and our allies first, as well as enhance our economy which has close links with the U.S. economy. To adopt another direction would be to go against all Canadians and all North Americans' best interests, which is contrary to our principles.

[*English*]

Mr. Blackburn (Brant): What a statement! Where did he come from, the Nineteenth Century?

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the view held by the Hon. Member. I do want to thank him for his original set of statements. One's first reaction is to respond very harshly but I think the question is too important to respond in that vein.

Canada's economy is based by and large on Canada's participation in the global economic community. The day when Canada could think of itself as an economic and financial island, one unto itself that could develop quite independently of what is going on throughout the rest of the world, has long since past. As a matter of fact, it never did exist. When one goes back to the very beginning of the kind of western economy that we have come to know in this part of the world called the fur trade, the way of life of Canada and the health of our communities was dependent upon our ability to use that resource and export furs to Europe and China.

That same economic approach has not changed up to today. The ability of Canada to sell its goods to other countries and to import goods from other countries, both finished products as well as raw products, is integral to our economy here. We are one of the major trading countries of the world. As a major trading country obviously we depend upon the ability to interact with other nations. We do. Our track record has been relatively positive over the years. The way our economy will improve in the years ahead is to continue in that same vein.

That is why we are concerned about all of the protectionist policies that the Reagan administration is implementing in the United States. Almost every sector is either having protectionist policies introduced today or is having them contemplated, whether the sugar, the copper, the forest products or the fish sector. You name it, Mr. Speaker. In that great free enterprise, that free trade country is acting quite contrary to what it says.

I do not think Canada necessarily wants to get into that same mentality. When we hear people say that charity begins at home, of course it does. The point is our healthy Canadian economy depends upon our participation in a healthy global economy. It means that by assisting others in certain kinds of ways, not only does it assist them, but in the long term and in some cases even in the short term it assists us.

● (1150)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is the House ready for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question is as follows: Mrs. McDougall, seconded by Mr. Merrithew, moves that Bill C-30, an Act to amend the Bretton Woods Agreements Act and to repeal the International Development Association Act and amend certain other Acts in consequence thereof, be now read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to, Bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

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OIL SUBSTITUTION AND CONSERVATION ACT CANADIAN HOME INSULATION PROGRAM ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed from Monday, March 4, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wise (for the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources) that Bill C-24, an Act to amend the Oil Substitution and Conservation Act and the Canadian Home Insulation Program Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

Mrs. Barbara Sparrow (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in support of Bill C-24 today, an Act to amend the Oil Substitution and Conservation Act and the Canadian Home Insulation Program Act. Since the CHIP program commenced in 1977 and continued to the end of 1984, 179,660 grants were made in my home province of Alberta to the value of nearly \$65 million. COSP grants in my province to the end of January, 1985 amounted to some \$3.8 million. The CHIP program has undoubtedly contributed to the conservation of energy, but so have the people of Canada made such a contribution, some conscientiously by lowering their thermostats and some by lowering their thermostats for economic reasons. I may say that the latter had to do so through the failure of the previous Government and its disastrous National Energy Program to move more rapidly toward energy self-sufficiency.

It is my hope that our citizens will support this Government's effort to cope with the deficit and continued activities to reduce the consumption of energy. My Government believes that oil security cannot be achieved without the commitment and involvement of every Canadian. The federal Government reduced its energy consumption 5 per cent from 1981-82 to 1982-83 and realized a total reduction of more than 21 per