

has chosen to increase the tax burden of refineries. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the government has decided to tax where the money is in order to distribute it among Canadians, as it had done previously when it levied more taxes in Ontario and Quebec and as it will surely do in the future, because Canadian federalism is based on one concept—sharing.

[*English*]

Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova): Mr. Speaker, I have some sympathy for my colleagues opposite, reading prepared speeches prepared for them by departmental officials. It is very difficult—

Mr. Deniger: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I am sure the hon. member for Central Nova will realize that my speech came from no one but me and my staff. It is quite unfair for him to imply that the words I uttered are words that I do not sincerely believe. Believe me, I am concerned about our future and the present situation. Not one word of my speech came from anyone outside of my office. I hope the hon. member has some respect for this institution and for me as an individual. I think he is a fine member of Parliament. I am sure he did not mean to imply I had a prepared speech. I worked very hard on my speech and firmly believe everything I said. He was being most unfair. It is not like him to imply that my speech could have been prepared by anyone except my staff and myself.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the hon. member has such a fine opinion of his authorship. I do not wish to cast any aspersions on his speech. He did not let me finish. I was about to say that I felt rather sorry for members opposite who had to read from prepared texts, prepared by departmental officials, defending this budget. The last speaker indicated that is not the case. I am glad to hear that. I am glad to hear that by implication he would dissociate himself from those kinds of speeches prepared by departmental officials because if there were less of those and more speeches prepared—

Mr. Evans: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I object very strenuously to the words that have just been uttered by the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay). I too have great respect for the member. As Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance, I can tell him that the departmental officials, in conjunction with the minister, prepared the minister's speech and, in conjunction with the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Bussi eres), also prepared his speech. They have not prepared any other speeches that have been given by any member on this side of the House during this budget debate.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. MacKay: We are getting more information about some of these speeches at this point than we have been able to get all during the budget debate. I thank the hon. member for giving me that kind of assurance. It certainly helps.

The Budget—Mr. MacKay

At this point in our budget debate, I think it is interesting to note that we have just witnessed an historic election in the United States of America. I believe it would be worth while to refer to that election in passing. As all of us know, what happens in this House as the policies or lack of policies unfold which affect the budget of the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen), the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) and so on, will be determined greatly by the success that president-elect Ronald Reagan and his new administration have in coping with the difficulties that face the free world and face their country.

I hope members of this House of Parliament will join with me in wishing president-elect Reagan and his new administration every success. Obviously there are many, many matters of common interest that we share with our neighbour to the south. I remember it being said in this House at one time, I believe by the then leader of the Social Credit party, that the United States was the best friend we had whether we liked it or not. I think he was being facetious. That is precisely what the United States is not. The Soviet Union may have that particular distinction when people talk about their captive satellites.

We in this country are very fortunate to share a common border with the United States of America. I believe that President Kennedy said—perhaps in this House of Commons, certainly in this country when he visited here—that geography has made us neighbours, history has made us friends, and economics have made us partners. I hope in the months ahead, as the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources indicated, there will be immediate contact made with the new administration of the United States in order to address some of the very serious irritants and mutual matters of concern between ourselves and that country—a northern pipeline, the fisheries treaties which have not been ratified, and the “Buy America” program. There are many areas of concern. I only mention that today because we are given a fair amount of latitude. I believe hon. members would agree that it is very important we get off to a positive start in making initial approaches to the new administration of our good friends to the south, and I am depending upon hon. members, and members of the cabinet opposite, to do that very thing.

● (1610)

It is obvious that this budget debate has revealed a great many divisive and tense matters which are troubling our country. The last speaker referred to some of them. The positive aspects of this budget, which it would be intellectually dishonest to deny exist, have, I am sure to the disappointment of hon. members opposite and the Minister of Finance, not stilled the criticism which has come in unusual severity from columnists and, indeed, every part of this country.

The movement toward more emphasis on economic development, the movement to close some loopholes permitting foreign vehicles or foreign ships to come in and tank up with cheap Canadian fuel are along with the postponement of deindexing, positive aspects of the budget, but they have not to any