

Excise Tax Act

performance here this afternoon, because in effect he has misdirected and misguided the Minister of Finance in regard to his responsibilities under the rules of this House.

I do not want to blame the Minister of Justice completely.

An hon. Member: Then sit down.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I will sit down, but the hon. member has just talked me into speaking for a little longer. If we are to continue this debate under these circumstances, then I think it is only fair to say that the Minister of Finance has misguided himself. He has given us the best example of a Liberal policy, a policy that is like the automatic parachute that opens upon impact.

Here today we have hon. members opposite taking no cognizance at all of the ruling of Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the hand of Mr. Speaker was some divine guidance that was indicating to the Minister of Finance just how unjust, discriminatory, and wrong Bill C-66 is so far as it applies to the Canadian consumer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I do not want to prevent the hon. member from addressing himself to the bill, but I hope he will not get to his feet in the middle of a debate to reflect upon a decision taken by the Chair. The hon. member has enough leeway and latitude to make a good speech without trying to implicate the Chair's participation.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, if I was involving the Chair in this debate it was only on the side of the good Lord.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I want now to get to the substance of this particular debate. Bill C-66 imposes a discriminatory, regressive, harsh, cruel tax on a segment of the Canadian population. As long as the Minister of Finance occupies that office he is going to be known as "Ten cent Turner". He is going to be known as the Minister of Finance who stabbed the Canadian consumer once again in the back.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): He is going to be known as the Minister of Finance who placed just one more barbed blade, along with all the others, in the back of the Canadian consumer. I do not want the Minister of Finance to think that he is any small backstabber; when the Minister of Finance stabs somebody in the back he does a job of it. This is a \$350 million stab in the back.

I want to ask these paragons of virtue so-called, these efficiency experts so-called, what will this tax do other than soak the consumer? It will do nothing, Mr. Speaker. If you believe the government, the one great problem in Canada is supply of petroleum products.

Mr. Poulin: Speak up, we cannot hear you.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): I can never hear the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Poulin) because he usually speaks out of both sides of his mouth. I want to

[Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton).]

ask the Minister of Finance what the budget does. If the major Canadian problem is to ensure a steady, constant supply of petroleum products so that we can move closer to self-sufficiency, is one thin dime from one gallon of gasoline at the pumps going to go back to the producers of Canada? The answer, Mr. Speaker, is no, not one. Is there one measure in this budget that will ensure the eastern consumers one additional gallon of fuel? Again, Mr. Speaker, the answer is no. This is a money grabbing budget introduced by a money grabbing government.

What have hon. gentlemen opposite been saying? The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gillespie) and the Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Drury) have said that we are going to embark upon a great program of research and development so we can become masters in our own house. We have heard other ministers talk of the necessity of finding alternate fuels. I ask, where is all this \$350 million going to go? Is it going to go toward these worthy objectives that we support? Of course not—it is going into the coffers of the government.

Mr. Sharp: It is going to the consumers of eastern Canada. You know that.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): The government House leader has messed things up enough today, but if he wants to make a speech he can do so.

Mr. Sharp: Yes, I may do that.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Not one dollar of this money will go back to the producing provinces.

Mr. Sharp: It is going to the consumers instead.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Let me deal with the interjection of the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Sharp). He asks us where this money is going to go.

Mr. Sharp: I did not ask you, I told you.

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): We know where it is going to go. It is designed to offset the deficit in the petroleum import cost compensation program.

● (2130)

Mr. Sharp: That is right.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Just contain yourself. I do not think the hon. member ought to generate any more indignation that he can contain.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton): This is going to be used for that purpose. What is the effect of this? There is being loaded on a very small, unprotected segment of the Canadian population, namely, the person who uses the automobile to get to work, the working person, the whole burden of this national problem. That is not only unfair, that is discriminatory.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!