Farmers have always been exempt from the excise tax because they are producers. The farmer who is driving his tractor out in the field is not out for a pleasure ride. That tax increase meant that the Progressive Conservative government was recommending to the farm producers that they go back to oxen or draught-horses. By refusing to bring the Clark government back to power, the people were suggesting it go and reflect until at least the year 2000. The MacEachen budget provides for increasing the price of gas by 13 cents a gallon in 1980, whereas it would have gone up by 32 cents a gallon had the Clark government budget been accepted.

On the evening of October 28, while the Minister of Finance was reading his budget, we could see that the opposition was ill at ease.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to find fault with a budget which provides for practically no increase in individual or corporate income taxes. Once again, hon. members of the Progressive Conservative Party, as birds of ill omen, had predicted that the Liberal government would do away with the indexation of income tax. I could see that the rank and file were desperate when the minister announced that the indexation program was maintained. Therefore, the indexation will reduce by as much as $1.6 billion the amount Canadian taxpayers will have to pay in income taxes next year. This represents anywhere between $200 and $300 for individual taxpayers.

Following the representations made by the hon. member for the Saguenay Lac-Saint-Jean area, fortified wines with an alcoholic content of over 14 per cent will be taxed on the same basis as table wines. The excise tax on fortified wines will be reduced from $3 to $1.25 par gallon. I am pleased with this decision, for it will benefit wine producers in our area, especially those who make wine out of blueberries, a regional product.

It is, in fact, a sharing budget. Hon. members will recall that the Crosbie budget granted a tax credit for mortgage interest. The measure benefited few Canadians. Renters, those who make no mortgage payments, people with too low income to take advantage of the program, paid more taxes to favour a small category of taxpayers. The Progressive Conservative government increased the excise tax on gas to pay the cost of the mortgage interest tax credit program. On the contrary, we see that the Liberal government announced a national energy program that does not penalize taxpayers. Thus, thanks to measures announced in the budget, increased oil prices in Canada will always be below world prices. They will never exceed 85 per cent of the foreign oil prices, or, if it is lower than the oil prices in the United States, the Canadian industry will remain competitive.

Mr. Speaker, the whole package of energy measures aims at Canadianizing our oil industry. It is a measure that is part of the Liberal philosophy. Thanks to this policy, we are counting on a 50 per cent Canadian participation at least in gas and oil production by 1990.

Our proudest asset, Petro-Canada, will be instructed to take over the shares of one or several oil multinationals. Mr. Speaker, this is a real government in action, a government that looks after the interests of the taxpayers thanks to a Canadian policy under which all citizens from coast to coast will enjoy the benefits derived from our natural riches and through a fair distribution, through this sharing formula, $40 billion more will be retrieved to be distributed to all Canadian taxpayers instead of being exported by multinationals to foreign countries. This is what I call a responsible government, a government that is not afraid to legislate according to the needs of taxpayers from all regions of the country.

Another aspect of the energy policy is the announced extension of the gas pipeline to Quebec and the maritimes and the guarantee that the gas will be delivered to Quebec and Halifax as well as to Montreal and Toronto. To help conserve energy, the federal government is going to give grants to assist homeowners in converting from oil to gas, electricity or other forms of energy which we have in abundance in Canada.

Since we are on the topic of energy, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a number of facts which are worthy of consideration. In a letter addressed to all members of the House, the president of Dome Petroleum reminds us that industrialized nations want to buy their energy supplies from politically stable countries. There is oil in the Arab states but during the Israel-Egypt conflict, it stopped flowing and prices climbed. There is oil in Iran and Iraq, but because of the war between those two countries, the oil tap was shut off. Therefore, the oil and gas under Canadian soil increases in value by the sheer fact that Canada is a peaceful country. The industrialized countries of Europe are following very closely our discussions on energy. All Canadians are going to benefit from the developments which the Minister of Finance announced in his budget. According to the predictions made by the president of Dome Petroleum, our recoverable oil reserves in the tar sands and in heavy oil could keep us going for 300 years.

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Our crude oil supplies total about 100 billion barrels and could meet the needs of Canada for 125 years. In view of such plentiful supplies and the strong demand from foreign countries, I wonder by what right and how long Mr. Lougheed can refuse to develop the energy potential of his province. Fortunately, there is a Parliament for all Canadians, because it is not normal for a premier to condemn thousands of Canadians to unemployment through his stubbornness. If we developed our energy potential, we would create immediately 150,000 jobs, according to the president of Dome Petroleum. This is the objective of this government, to stimulate employment while developing new energy sources, Mr. Speaker.

An article in the publication *Commerce* of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce states that for each job