same ideology in planning—if you want to call it that—further destruction and further busts. This is all I can say for it. It has not been democratic socialism that has brought to this country the difficulties it is facing now, and it has not been a balanced economy that has done it. It has been the laissez-faire free enterprise, so called—as Tommy Douglas said, neither free nor enterprising.

● (1640)

They are the first ones to have cried "too much government interference", "leave us alone", "let us make a profit", "we will do the job for you", "we will put people to work", etc., but the minute they are in the slightest bit of trouble, who are in the front end of the line with their hand out? It is the same old free enterprisers. They are working hard to prove that Karl Marx was right, that capitalism will destroy itself. I suppose that in some respects that would put democratic socialism in the position of trying to save at least the better parts of free enterprise. But the way the old parties have operated in this country over the last 100 years or so in carrying out these outmoded, obsolete theories of private enterprise, is what has caused us all this trouble.

Who has caused the high unemployment? It was not the socialists. Who is seeing to it that our veterans and old age pensioners have an income lower or just at the poverty line? It is not the socialists, it is the free enterprisers.

Canada is a country of forests and of hydroelectric power, of vast resources. It is only the organizational genius of the Liberals and Tories that could have ensured that none of them is properly distributed to the people of this country. They have the imagination of a doorknob, and they are afraid. They sit in their little towers worrying about little things; they are men of little minds working with little ideas. Surely they could change if they took a look at the experience and at the results of what they have been doing, if they took a look at what this country could do when there was a declaration of war.

Prior to the war they said, "There is no money so there are no jobs", but as soon as war was declared and it was time to kill people, money was found, and so were jobs. I was paid a dollar a day, but they gave me a uniform and a gun. Why not then do the same thing in terms of a declaration of peace with the same kind of energy and marshalling of our people, our resources and our financial capacity to turn this economy around and make it into a much better nation, to bring about real co-operative federalism, to bring about unity in this country, and cease this mindless, incoherent babble coming from 20 directions in the Tory ranks, and the mindless confrontation of Liberals who think they are the only ones fit to govern and to sit down with the premiers and talk with the Canadian people? Why not come up with projects that will turn this nation around and make it the kind of country it can be?

[*Translation*]

Hon. Pierre Bussières (Minister of State, Finance): Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to have this opportunity to take part in the budget debate, more especially since, as everyone knows, I work in close co-operation with my colleague, the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen). I would say I am in complete agreement with the Quebec finance minister, Mr. Parizeau, who noted the remarkable cleverness shown by the finance minister in his budget.

To me this is more than a clever budget. It is in fact a responsible budget, a realistic budget. The tax measures it contains are the answers to the present economic situation, to this period of economic recession as well as to the challenge we face in this new decade. The Minister of Finance avoided the traps of short-term vision of cyclical economic events, into which the opposition parties fall. He is avoiding the pitfalls that await the right-wing and left-wing experts for whom the consequences on low-income wage earners have little importance.

The Minister of Finance did not indulge in any sleight of hand to make the people believe that the unemployment and inflation rates could be reduced overnight. This is a responsible and realistic budget, because in avoiding those pitfalls the Minister of Finance paves the way for medium and long-term economic development while minimizing the impact of a short-term recession. In acting in this way, he not only gives our country an industrial strategy, but he enables us to free ourselves from our dependency on foreign oil supplies and gives us, Canadians, control over the important sector of oil and gas exploration and development. It would have been quite irresponsible to adopt extreme attitudes in the field of taxation. It would also have been irresponsible to try to play the magician and, as I said earlier, the minister chose the path of responsibility and realism.

● (1650)

The economic difficulties that have arisen during the last decade clearly show that we must adapt a long term rather than a short term economic strategy if we want to meet successfully the challenge of the eighties. The problems linked to the objective of energy self-sufficiency, those linked to the reduction of the rates of unemployment and inflation, the need to regain a more satisfactory rate of growth in production and productivity as well as the increased competition on international markets for products of current technology are as many challenges which compel us to a search for durable, efficient, medium-term and long-term solutions. The possible solutions to these problems will not be recognized as such so easily. The desirable solutions require a judicious combination of structural, industrial, regional and also well-oriented fiscal and monetary policies. This medium term economic development is based on the critical energy sector which will occupy a more important part of our industrial base and will help us achieve our goal of energy self-sufficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to deal briefly with the components of the energy strategy which will contribute to the