one half the cost of the conversion bill, up to $800. However, the government goes on to say, and this is the kicker, that, the grant, whatever the amount is, will have to be declared on income tax for income tax purposes. Again they will get their greedy claws on a good bit of that grant money.

What is the government doing? It is giving with one hand and taking away with the other. As the Bible says, the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. In this case, it is MacEachen who giveth and MacEachen who taketh away and continues to take away.

Also, the government is going to impose an excise tax on natural gas which will be equivalent to 12½ cents a gallon by the year 1984. Talk about deceptiveness and trickery. This government certainly gains full marks for that. On the subject of trickery, I am reminded of one of our cabinet ministers who attended a gala event. An outstanding comedian was present. The cabinet minister said to him, "If you are a comedian, make me laugh." The comedian looked at him and said, "You are a politician, tell me a lie."

I also want to bring to the attention of the House the 50 per cent tax credit for new manufacturing. This investment tax credit program sounds wonderful. It will help certain industries by allowing a 50 per cent write-off of the tax credit against liability. As I understand the program, the object is to promote industrial development in those parts of the country most adversely affected by economic disparity. The 50 per cent investment tax credit applies to eligible capital costs on assets acquired for manufacturing. Certain of them are eligible such as fish, sawmilling and metal fabrication. A great many more are not eligible. There is no limit to the project size.

The eligible period is a five-year period commencing October 28, 1980. A building started before the eligible period may qualify for those costs incurred after October 28. Eligible assets are those devised under the Regional Development Incentives Act. The point I want to stress is that it is no help to the constituency of Parry Sound-Muskoka.

I see a former minister from the last Liberal government here. I do not think it will be a hell of a lot of good to him, either, because it applies only to north of the 50th parallel. I ask the President of the Treasury Board to pay special attention—he represents the province of Quebec. Ontario has a population of 8,576,000. This will only benefit .29 per cent or 24,271 people in the province of Ontario. Where does the 50th parallel go? It is north of Timmins, Cochrane and Moose Factory. The only town shown on the map is Fort Hope—not Port Hope, my illustrious friend. Isn't that a great benefit to the people of Ontario? In a lot of the western provinces it covers quite a bit.

Mr. Reid (Kenora-Rainy River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to tell the hon. member that in the constituency of Kenora-Rainy River, which I represent, there are a number of communities which will be able to take advantage of this provision, in addition to a number of Indian reserves; towns like Sioux Lookout, Hudson, Pickle Lake, Deer Falls, Red Lake, Balmerstown, Madsen—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please.

Mr. Darling: Therefore, you are part of the 24,000 people. I did not say specifically who they were. I am delighted to know that at least one riding will benefit. I presume there will be many factories in that northern area to help my friend from Kenora-Rainy River.

• (1740)

There is no question that there has been a great deal of uproar over the energy items in the budget. The government has slapped a tax on the export sales of natural and domestic gas, in fact, on all gas. The government imposed a new oil and gas pricing regime on the producing provinces. As we are well aware, the price of gasoline has gone up under this government and it will continue to go up in the future. The cost of this Liberal energy plan will be a major drain on every family and individual income in this country. Canadians should be under no illusions about that.

I might mention that a prominent member of the Ontario legislature represents the riding of Muskoka in my area. He is certainly well known, because he is the treasurer for the Ontario government, the Hon. Frank Miller. As I recall, during the election in February and prior to that time, Mr. Miller made some comments about our budget. Many of his comments were quoted at length by my Liberal opponent. However, the minister has looked at last week's budget and found considerable fault this time with the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen). In retrospect, I think he is wishing that he had been listening instead of talking last December.

An article in the *Citizen* for Friday, October 31, 1980 reads in part:

> Provincial Treasurer Frank Miller accused Finance Minister Allan MacEachen of ignoring Ontario's ailing economy, while pumping billions of dollars into the West.

The article continues:

> Miller said he was "deeply concerned" the budget will only worsen Ontario's growing recession by treating unemployment as a low priority.
>
> Increasing unemployment insurance premiums by 33 per cent will cost the provincial economy $300 million next year.

These are additional premiums.

I was listening to the remarks of my distinguished colleague from Mississauga who said the additional cost in unemployment insurance premiums will cost Canadians over $1.1 billion next year. However, speaking outside of the Ontario Legislature, according to the *Citizen* article:

> —Miller estimated an average Ontario household will pay up to $2,500 more in energy costs over the next five years.

Imagine what that amount will be over the tenure of this government. The Lord have mercy upon us is all I can say about that.

It was also pointed out that all these costs will cost Ontario an extra $10 billion a year. There are about 2.5 million households in Ontario, so that is a reasonable figure. This statement of $2,500 a year or more gives a lot of us a great deal of worry.