

advanced payment of the child tax credit, the Farm Financial Assistance Policy, the Program for Older Worker Adjustment, a program to help social assistance recipients find employment, increased funding for cultural, R&D and job training programs.

The measures contained in the budget are also a beacon to those doing business in this country and those who wish to do business with this country that Canadians are determined to put their own economic house in order. It is a clear statement that we intend to moderate our collective debt load in this country. In this way we intend to free up funds that might otherwise be lost in debt servicing -- and the taxes essential to produce that servicing -- for economic growth, job creation, social programs and legitimate private sector investment.

This is a budget of courage and commitment. However we as a Government are confident it will be successful because we know that Canadians have the resolution and courage to make those tough decisions that make Canada a stronger and more dynamic country.

I stand before you today, in the context of the great traditions and history of this Empire Club, and cannot but reflect on where we would be as a nation if we had not had the courage in the past to seek changes in our international economic standing based upon a confirmed and resolute confidence in ourselves.

Let us remember that before the term empire meant anything else, it often meant 'trading empire'. My belief is that the future of Canada rests on becoming the Number One Trading Empire of the 21st Century. Therefore my Government is moving with the same kind of boldness which

allowed the British Empire to contribute mightily to the civilization of the world. One doesn't proceed to build a trading empire today by sending out bands of gentlemen adventurers (or 'gentleperson' adventurers). Free discussion has replaced free bootery; skilled negotiation must replace the skill at arms which formerly won trading empires.

This government is convinced that Canadians can take on the world confidently and successfully if they are supported by the proper framework of government policies. We think that our policies achieve that objective, particularly the major initiatives that we have undertaken on the trade policy front.

Let me now describe our government's approach to trade. To begin with, I will outline our trade policy objectives.

First, we must create the conditions for a strong, internationally competitive Canadian economy where investment, incomes, and jobs will steadily increase. Second, we must develop a competitive economy within a system of internationally agreed-upon rules and accepted codes of behaviour. Our exports must be both expanded and secured if we are to enjoy the growth and prosperity that Canadians expect. Our access to markets must be expanded, to give our exporters of goods and services the means to improve their competitiveness as the Europeans did in forming the European Community a quarter-century ago. And our markets must be secured as well to protect the access that we have already successfully achieved from the new forms of protectionism that could cost Canadians jobs. It is that simple.

We will achieve these objectives by