government's fiscal position in the 1990s can support the priority programs Canadians value.

I have stated on many occasions that it would be irresponsible of our generation if we took the easy option of simply passing our deficit burden to our children. It would also be irresponsible to leave them a legacy of environmental neglect.

In Canada and abroad, we are witnessing a major change in peoples' attitudes and actions towards the environment. My colleague, the Minister of the Environment, is currently engaged in an extensive dialogue with Canadians on the steps we must take to address the difficult problems related to the pollution of our land, air and water and to deal with the protection of our ecological resources. Later this year, he will table before Parliament, "An Environmental Agenda for Canada: Implementing Sustainable Development."

[*Translation*]

Canadians want action to protect our environment. The Agenda will be comprehensive and substantial and will demonstrate the government's commitment to action. It will be introduced in a fiscally responsible manner.

IMPACT OF BUDGET MEASURES

The decisive actions in this budget bring us back to the fiscal track set out in the 1989 budget. We will cut the deficit to $28.5 billion in 1990-91. This deficit includes the impact of the one-time transitional cost of sales tax reform, including prepayment of the Goods and Services Tax Credit, the transitional grant to small business and the rebate of federal sales tax on inventories.

[*English*]

The measures in this budget ensure that the deficit will be more than cut in half to $14 billion by 1993-94. By the following year:

The deficit will be further reduced to $10 billion.

The government will begin to pay down its bonds and Treasury bills.

Program spending will fall to 14.2 per cent of national income, the lowest level since the late 1960s.

The surplus of revenues over program expenditures—our operating surplus—will reach $31 billion.

• (1715)

The burden of debt will be reduced as the public debt shrinks relative to our national income.

As a direct result, the portion of every revenue dollar that today goes for debt interest will be reduced from 35 cents and rising, to 26 cents and falling.

In short, we will regain the flexibility needed to make real choices about the kind of country we will pass on to our children. And we will be able to make those choices in a climate of lower inflation, lower interest rates, durable economic growth and more jobs and opportunities in every part of Canada.

I am tabling the budget document including Notices of Ways and Means Motions. Details of the measures are included in the document.

Tomorrow I will introduce a bill seeking borrowing authority for the 1990-91 fiscal year.

I am asking that an order of the day be designated for consideration of those motions.

CONCLUSION

A nation's true sovereignty is determined by the ability of its people to shape their own future.

In today's world, our sovereignty is not threatened by military force or aggression. Our freedom and opportunity to realize our dreams for ourselves and our children rest on our response to the challenge of a more competitive world in the throes of economic change.

[*Translation*]

There can be no turning inward from this world. Canada is a major trading nation. We depend on international trade for one-third of our national income, millions of jobs and a substantial part of our ability to pay for important public services.

These benefits do not flow to Canada by right; we have to work hard for them. And when the economic world changes, we have to keep pace. To master our future in a changing world, we must expand our capacity to produce and sell Canadian goods and services at home and in markets around the world.