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to be introduced over the course of our mandate, to complement and enhance our Party's national program for economic renewal.

I would like to suggest to Members of the House that it is in the context of a high deficit, high unemployment and a fragile recovery, that Government actions and Government choices have to be judged. With a deficit of about \$35 billion, and debt charges of \$22 billion, the debt has become a burden which cannot be ignored. Senior citizens have told us that they understand how difficult this Budget is on them, but they also understand what I have just said. Every responsible Canadian should be concerned when his or her Government spends more to service the debt than it spends on health care, pensions and transfers to the provinces for health and welfare.

When Canadians recognize that they currently spend more on servicing the debt than they do on health care and pensions, they know that someone has to take action. Surely such a situation, if left untended, cannot but further restrict individual decisions and government action in the future.

I heard the Hon. Member for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) this afternoon use the analogy of an amputation, and she had no preference between amputating the hand or the arm. Let me tell you that Canadians understand it is always preferable to have an amputation than to have a slow and painful death. I believe that a Government acts in a fiscally and socially responsible manner when it proposes to get the deficit under control because it understands that not doing so will handicap our efforts to do things for senior citizens in the future. In trying to bring the deficit under control, we know that doing so provides the conditions necessary to retain social policies.

The worst thing we could do for people for people who depend on our social programs would be to ignore the problem until it was too late. Moreover, I further believe that every able Canadian should share in the burden of deficit reduction as they will also share in the recovery. There is no Canadian, young or old, fortunate or not, who wants the responsibility for sustaining unemployment. Equally, I know all Canadians are willing to contribute to the effort to increase employment and improve productivity.

Through its decision to modify indexation, it is important to note, of both revenues and expenditures, this Government will be successful in spreading the burden of deficit reduction as widely as possible while still retaining a degree of protection against unexpectedly high levels of inflation. Any increase in inflation above 3 per cent will be fully compensated.

There is one promise which this Government has kept above all, the promise we made to Canadians during the election campaign that we would allocate scarce resources to those most in need. A high degree of protection against inflation is maintained for pensioners in need. Full indexing has been maintained for those in receipt of the GIS and for payments to veterans. As well, as soon as the legislation can be passed, an additional 85,000 low income widows and widowers between the ages of 60 and 65 will become eligible for the spouse's allowance benefit. The vast majority of those who will benefit from this particular Bill are women who have been financially

dependent for most if not all of their lives. There is no denying that these widows are amongst the poorest members of our society.

In the briefs moments I have had, Mr. Speaker, I tried to talk about positive things. However, I have some concerns. Members of Parliament were elected in September to speak for their constituents and to bring to this House the legitimate comments made by their constituents. Canadians voted for a change in September, but I believe, because I knocked on a lot of doors this summer, as did a number of my colleagues, that Canadians also wanted in their representatives a measure of a change in attitude. I have heard examples this afternoon of an attitude amongst Members of Parliament which I deplore. I heard the Hon. Member for Beaches say this afternoon in this House to those of us on this side that we are in for the fight of our lives. It concerns me enormously that a Member of Parliament would stand in this House and tell us that he and others are going out on the streets of Canada to orchestrate fear, start a fight and bring it back here to the House of Commons.

Members opposite, by their performance today and because of some things I have read in newspapers this past week, have spread fear among senior citizens in the same way that confidence men bilk people of their savings. I heard some of those Members talking about asking for signatures on a petition. It is not the responsibility of a Member of Parliament to walk around the country and say to people: "This Government is hurting you; sign here and we will do something about it."

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Duguay: On September 4 Canadians expressed confidence in this Government. We are acting in a way which responds to those things they said to us so clearly about putting the country's economy back in order. We are doing that. There are numerous examples of very positive things which have taken place. Since September we have created over 200,000 jobs, 89,000 in April alone. Today the Standing Committee on Labour, Manpower and Immigration brings down its third report. It talks about entrepreneurial immigration and suggests that would create 200,000 jobs and bring in over \$7 billion of investment. We have done things to encourage in Canadians a confidence in their own ability, an ability we know they have.

What I have seen in this House today and what I have heard being said by Members opposite is that if we strike enough fear in the poor and aged, they will respond by signing petitions and we can get the Government to move back to the position of the former Government, that if you spend more money, somehow everything gets better. It must be made clear that when they say spend more money, they get that money from the same people they are now talking about trying to protect.

Canadians are prepared to share the good and the difficult in this Budget. I, too, have had calls from senior citizens, and let me tell what they expressed to me. They expressed a concern that their pensions will no longer be fully indexed.