deficit four years in a row! That is an achievement, Mr. Speaker, the Opposition never mention. That is too painful for them, it hurts too much.

My colleague for Beauharnois—Salaberry (Mr. Hudon), who was a mayor in his riding before being elected to the House of Commons, knows what it is to manage, and his positive comments on the Budget prove it.

Debt servicing, Mr. Speaker, was $22 billion in 1984-85. In 1988-89 we will have to pay $32 billion worth of interest on their debts, not ours. However, Mr. Speaker, their debts are, unfortunately for Canadians, the debts of all of us. It is because of this—I won't use any unparliamentary language, Mr. Speaker—unfortunate administration of the previous Government that we now have this huge debt, and interest charges amounting to $32 billion on the debts of our predecessors.

You will note that despite this $10 billion increase in interest payments over three and a half years, we have been able to reduce the deficit. It means, Mr. Speaker, a difference of $20 billion in three and a half years. And they dare tell us, on the other side, that we don't know how to manage! Mr. Speaker, our policies are just and effective. We applied to the government the same principles of sound management used by private companies and municipalities.

The federal government owned, as you will remember, Mr. Speaker, lands and buildings that it was saving for some unknown reason. We sold them. Sound management is using the goods we need and getting rid of those we don't need.

The Leader of the Opposition was talking earlier about a "vision of the future". What can be the vision of that party which has at least three opinions on every major issue, Mr. Speaker? Whether it is national defense, free trade, child care or the Meech Lake Accord, Mr. Speaker, 25 per cent of Liberal Members have voted against it. And, believe it or not, among those were a lot of Members from Quebec. So, when I hear about a "vision of the future", I think that the Conservative Party and the Prime Minister have a definite vision of the future. And that vision could be summed up in three words: quality of life. Quality of life, Mr. Speaker, for my constituents of Trois-Rivières, for the people of Quebec and for all Canadians. And of course, Mr. Speaker, for your constituents as well.

And what does quality of life mean, Mr. Speaker? We cannot have quality of life in Canada or in any other country if people are out of work. It's priority number one.

Mr. Speaker, in three and a half years, the Conservative Party, along with the private enterprise—and not against it as was the case under the previous government—has created 1 200 000 new jobs. That is where the quality of life starts, through job creation. Development programs at the social and cultural levels have been increased, as well as regional development programs, at the same time as the deficit was reduced.

As far as social development is concerned, transfer payments to the provinces have increased by 2.7 per cent. Comparison between the years 1984-85 and 1988-89 shows $701 million more for insured complementary health services; $117 million more for post-secondary education; $837 million more for social welfare services, for a grand total of $2.9 billion more in 1988-89 than in 1984-85. Mr. Speaker, Old Age Security shows an increase; the Guaranteed Income Security: close to $1 billion has been added; Spouse Allocation shows an increase of $275 million; $178 million more will be spent under the Canada Student Loans Act; $200 million more are set aside as special measures to increase employment opportunities for welfare beneficiaries; transfer payments to territorial governments will amount to $330 million; grants and contributions to regional and economic development, in order to support the industrial and regional development are $868 million higher than in the 1984-85 Estimates, Mr. Speaker. The National Research Council gets $78 million more. Payments to railway companies reach another $140 million. External Affairs will get $779 million. Yet, Mr. Speaker, someone comes and tells me that the Government has done nothing, that it has no vision for the future!

Mr. Speaker, the figures speak by themselves. In all areas, there have been reasonable increases responding to the needs of Canadians, and I have not mentioned the national strategy concerning child care. There is research and development for which the Prime Minister has made very interesting announcements in January. The *Université du Québec* at Trois-Rivières has positively and publicly supported the announcement of the Prime Minister. It considers that initiative to be an excellent one and it is prepared to cooperate with the federal Government in that respect. I am not the one who says it. The Opposition will never mention it.

The federal-provincial agreements in a host of sectors are not, like before, strictly pertaining to resolve conflicts between federal and provincial governments.

Earlier today, the Leader of the Opposition talked about economic growth. Mr. Speaker, Canada has the fastest economic growth of all countries since 1984. He was talking about 1982. In 1982, we had interest rates of 22 per cent and he is telling us that it was then that we had economic growth. In 1982, we were paying interest rates. But since 1984, Canada has had the fastest economic growth and is also in the lead, which is as important if not more important, Mr. Speaker, for employment growth.

Once again, independent agencies are making that kind of decisions. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Speaker, just said that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance had no international vision. Mr. Speaker, for 15 years, the Liberal Government tried to make Canada a member of a renowned group called the Group of Five which is now the Group of Seven of which the most industrialized countries of the world are part. The Liberal Government attempted to have Canada as part of that select group, Mr. Speaker. That is what we would call going "international". And you know as well as I do