

of the world over the past four years the Canadian job creation record is No. 1. The reason for that is the private sector.

As a result, at this point in time there are 1,500,000 more Canadians working today than was the case just four and a half years ago. Happily they are not working for government. They are not on some short-term "paint the fence" type of make work program that characterized the previous administration. These for the most part are full-time rewarding jobs for Canadians. These Canadians are now contributing tax revenue to the Government. They are not taking out for unemployment insurance and social assistance so we benefit in two ways.

While much has been accomplished, much more needs to be done. The progress that we have made over the past four years is at risk, giving to growing inflation at home and elsewhere. We require responsible budgetary measures to restrain inflation long term and to help keep interest rates down.

The Budget put forward recently reflects a difficult situation. It takes serious steps, and it reflects difficult decisions and difficult choices that have to be taken. It calls for unpopular measures. It calls for tax increases and it calls for expenditure reductions. However, it acknowledges a fair and equitable balance. It reflects regional concerns, and it places a larger burden on those who are better able to carry it.

In the course of the last number of days these measures have been mentioned many, many times, but in summary we see restraint exercised at National Defence and overseas development, reduction in subsidies to VIA and CBC, postponement of child care spaces being created, transfers to the provinces being reduced somewhat but not less than the rate of inflation, and that privatization will continue, as will the success of de Havilland, Canadair and others.

We are seeing the repayment of social transfer payments that are made to wealthy Canadians and a new corporate tax not on income but for the first time on capital. Corporations may not make any money, but notwithstanding that they will have to pay tax based on capital employed within this country. We are going to see a tightening up of the corporate tax system. Personal taxes have to increase, as will excise taxes on cigarettes and tobacco and gasoline and the federal sales tax. All these measures are hardly worthy of a lot of cheer, but the fact is that they are absolutely necessary. This problem is in front of us. It is not going to go away.

*The Budget—Mr. G. Wilson*

I have been listening intently to Members opposite. I have from time to time asked them at the conclusion of their 20 minutes of criticism and complaining whether they have a single, sensible, alternate, practical solution which Canadians can employ to deal with the problem, and I have yet to hear one.

The Minister of Finance and this Government have acted responsibly and decisively through a balanced measure of tax increases and expenditure reductions. The tragedy in all this is that even with the measures I have outlined the debt is of such a magnitude that they will barely offset the interest costs. The result is that the deficit this year will still be \$30.5 billion, but happily next year down to \$28 billion and projected to be cut in half within five years.

Members opposite will say that that is not very impressive, that it does not do much, that it just maintains the *status quo*. However, I would challenge them because I do not think that they can have it both ways. One does not need a vivid imagination to see where things would be at without the tax increases and without expenditure restraints. The deficit would be into the area of \$40 billion to \$45 billion, with interest payments going out of sight and the future of the country, the security of our safety net and the future of our children impaired seriously.

I must assume that Members opposite will apparently agree that interest on the national debt is a serious problem and a threat to the future prosperity and security of the country. Presumably all Canadians want a caring and compassionate society with the capability to maintain the social programs, cultural programs, and the important public services that Canadians need. They want a Canada which is economically strong and is able to compete with the rest of the world so that our growth in job creation can be maintained and there are opportunities for our young people.

I believe that they want as we do a Canada that can sustain the high standard of living and pass on an enhanced quality of life to those who come after us, succeeding generations.

There may be those who disagree with certain aspects of the Budget, certain tax increases or a particular expenditure restraint, but the need for action cannot be denied. Partisan rhetoric simply is not in. Mindless criticism is out. Canadians want some meaningful action to deal with this problem. I say to Members opposite that if they have some alternatives, some workable suggestions, then let us have them because we on this side of