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a common concern and we saw in that example a social program that attempted to cure a demonstrable social ill.

As I have said, I believe that my colleagues in the NDP and the Conservative Party as well as my colleagues in the Liberal Party are in the overwhelming majority spurred on by the same imperative to improve our country and follow our own conscience in serving our fellow citizens.

During this recession we have seen the Government act out of these concerns. We have seen four practical steps followed which reflect the moral concern about the recession felt by Members on this side. First, I think we have indicated quite rightly that there are fundamental illnesses in our economy which must be cured. We could not act without addressing those basic facts and saying to the people, for example, that inflation has weakened our country. We could either provide some rubber patches to a leaky tire and attempt to restore the economy in a haphazard fashion, or we could address the very illness itself. I think it is imperative that we address the illness and cure it. That is what we have said should be the first step.

Second, we have said that we all must bear the burden during difficult times. We have not attempted to hide the fact that there are no magic answers during tough times. There is only hard work to get out of it. We have said that those who have the capacity should help get all of society out of trouble. We have been very clear on that issue.

Third, we have said that we will take the limited resources which we do have and direct them to the people who are most in need. While the vast majority will be asked to use their own resources, those who are most in trouble will receive help where they most need it.

Finally, we have said that it is acceptable, especially during tough times, to use the communities' resources and the Government's spending power to pull the whole country and specific people out of trouble.

I think that these four principles recognize that our country is part of the world and cannot exist in isolation no matter how hard we may want to try. It is not reasonable to try to isolate ourselves from events happening around the world.

We have seen this in my own riding in which there is a company called McDonnell Douglas. I am told that they have one of the most sophisticated machine shops for making aircraft in the world. They make the wings for DC-9s and DC-10s. During the past couple of years airlines have not been purchasing DC-9s or DC-10s and the only choice for the company was to stockpile the wings, which would not be reasonable, or to seek out new orders and aggressively rebuild. The company chose the latter course and DC-9s and DC-10s are being built again today. It would not have been reasonable for the company to fill warehouses full of DC-9 wings out of some misguided principle that we are an isolated autonomy.

Some of our hon. friends from British Columbia are in the House. They have seen the same impact on the lumber industry as a result of the decline in the American housing market. Our colleagues in Ontario and Quebec know the same impact

has hit the mining industry and they know of the experiences we have had in cities like Sudbury. We export and we trade abroad. We are open and subject to these forces that come in on us from the outside world. This is our greatest strength and it would be necessary for us to protect our trading openness, not to close it during times of economic difficulty. We do not want to close our borders. We do not want a magic solution that would tighten up our economy. We want to make sure that the whole world keeps trade as open as possible so that we can deal outward into that world for our own good.

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I think the approach the Government is taking recognizes that our fundamental economic trouble can be solved by common effort. We can get our house in order and when the problems in the outside world are solved we will be ready to take advantage. That was the thrust of our six and five program.

Mr. Riis: And two million people out of work.

Mr. Fisher: The whole point in the six and five program was that the Government could provide an example, but that Government action alone would not be enough. We would need other Governments at the provincial level, businesses, labour and co-operatives to join in with us—

Mr. Riis: And the old and the sick and the young.

Mr. Fisher: —and they did. People across the country gave us support. That is why that effort has been a success. Just as we said to people that each person must try to make a contribution, in the same way we said that our economic woes could be solved to a great extent by pulling together. We did not leave the great majority of people abandoned. Instead we tried to provide a focus, a target, for some co-operative effort which the majority could undertake.

As I mentioned earlier, we did not walk away from the victims of the worst impact of the recession. We tried to zero in specific help for these people.

Mr. Riis: By reducing pensions.

Mr. Fisher: That is why this Government has never had an apology for short-term job creation. We have never apologized for that. In fact, we are proud of our record. People who have short-term difficulty need short-term help. We do not believe that is make-work. We believe that is legitimate economic assistance for people who need that help the most. I am proud of the record of short-term jobs for students in the summer time, a record reflected in the NEED Program—

Mr. Riis: What about full-time jobs?

Mr. Fisher: —and a record that is reflected in the Canada Community Development Program. All of these efforts are reaching out in a short-term way and extending financial assistance, and are a worthwhile effort for people who need both for a short while.