While direct price controls were not adopted, the Canadian Government has fully realized the importance of fighting inflation, and of maintaining a high degree of confidence in the Canadian dollar. This it has striven to do by its fiscal, monetary and credit policies. These are often under attack. I suppose they always will be, because no one likes taxes and most people like cheap money and easy credit.

Now I am not going to suggest that every tax has been at the right level, or that monetary and credit measures were always just what was required. Furthermore, I have no quarrel with those who offer constructive criticism. What I do submit is that the vigorous policies followed by the Government and supported by Parliament during recent years have contributed in no small measure to the creation of conditions favourable to healthy economic growth.

The Government has been criticized for having a budgetary surplus for several years running. To some extent, as my colleague Mr. Abbott has pointed out, this surplus is the result of unforeseen though welcome increases in the national incomes and the fact that expenditures on defence have not been as large as expected. But I ask you, as businessmen, in which kind of a country would you have greater confidence -- one that under prosperous conditions paid its way and paid off some of its debt, or one that took the easy course of budgeting for deficits?

A good deal of capital has come into Canada in recent years to help in the development of our resources and our industries. That capital came because of the opportunities for profitable investment. It came because prospective investors had confidence in the financial integrity of this country and in the strength and stability of our currency.

Now I come to the third major decision in the field of economic policy that has influenced Canadian development in recent years -- that affecting trade. At the end of the War, a fundamental choice had to be made between what might be called a timid policy and a bold policy. The timid approach is that based on fear of competition. It counselled the taking of few chances, the preservation of existing markets rather than the development of new markets. The bold approach is that based on confidence in the ability of Canadians to meet competition and on the belief that Canada could grow and prosper only if she showed herself willing to trade with all parts of the free world.

Canada chose the bold approach. We entered at once into trade negotiations designed to reduce barriers to trade, and we pledged ourselves to follow non-discriminatory trade practices under the aegis of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Our foreign trade service was strengthened. Loans were extended to assist overseas countries that were prewar markets for Canadian products to get back on their feet after the War. Active steps were taken to encourage imports from countries which were experiencing difficulties in earning dollars. An International Trade Fair was established here in Toronto, symbolizing Canada's desire to trade with the world.

During the whole period of our rapid expansion, there have been no increases in the Canadian tariff. It is also noteworthy that the trade restrictions introduced in 1947 to conserve our diminishing reserves of United States dollars were swept away as soon as the need for them had disappeared.