

INSTEAD, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REITERATE THE ECONOMIC STRATEGY OUTLINED BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE IN LATE AUGUST -- A SPEECH WHICH CONTAINED MANY IMPORTANT IDEAS BUT WHICH RECEIVED LIMITED EXPOSURE IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY.

AS THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT DAY, THE STRATEGY OF THE PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT WILL BE BASED ON OUR BELIEF THAT CANADIANS MUST ADDRESS FIVE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS WHICH LIE AT THE CORE OF OUR ECONOMIC MALAISE.

1. THE HIGH COST OF CREDIT, CAUSED BY THE WEAKNESS OF OUR DOLLAR AND OUR NEED TO FINANCE OUR GROWING FOREIGN DEBT.

2. THE FINANCIAL WEAKNESS OF OUR PRIVATE SECTOR. TOO MANY CANADIAN BUSINESSES -- BOTH LARGE AND SMALL -- CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE WITH TOO MUCH HIGH COST DEBT AND NOT ENOUGH LOW COST EQUITY.