are looking at a deficit of around $35 billion. Surely the greatest protection which any person receiving old age security benefits can have is to make sure that that deficit is brought under control, so that the large amount of money which is being—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I ask the Ministers and the questioners, please, to be shorter. This is taking much longer than normal.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Malépart: Mr. Speaker, I can understand why the Prime Minister would be ashamed to answer the question. No wonder he is red-faced!

INDEXATION—CHEQUES FOR THE AGED—GOVERNMENT POSITION

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Montreal-Sainte-Marie): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct my supplementary question to the Minister of Finance, and I dare hope that for once the elderly will get a clear and honest answer.

Ms. Copps: That is impossible!

Mr. Malépart: I checked the Minister's Budget and nowhere is there any reference to old age pensions being fully indexed. Can the Minister of Finance now promise elderly Canadians that, if inflation goes up 6 per cent, the guaranteed income supplement will also go up 6 per cent as will the basic old age security pension so that the poor in Canada, older people, will get the full—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

[*English*]

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, let me make it quite clear that anyone who receives an old age security cheque will receive the same cheque, or an increase, as the effects of modified indexation occur.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): The Hon. Member knows that there will be a very potent form of insurance by keeping the modified indexation in place for those who receive the old age security. In addition, those who receive the guaranteed income supplement will receive full indexation of the CPI, as will people who receive the child tax credit, and the people who receive the veterans payments.

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PENSIONS

INDEXATION INQUIRY

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, yesterday our action group on jobs met with groups across Canada who expressed disappointment about parts of the Budget which affect them. They expressed real anger over the $1.6 billion which will be taken out of the pockets of our senior citizens by 1990. We heard things like: "What a hollow mockery this present Budget makes of the concepts of equity, fairness and compassion." Nowhere, Sir, is this more blatant than in "the harsh measures the Government is taking to—

Some Hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Langdon: —partially deindex old age pensions".

Mr. Speaker: Does the Hon. Member have a question now, please?

Mr. Langdon: Does the Minister agree with those words about the harshness of deindexing pensions?

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that perhaps the Hon. Member has talked to some people about the effects of the Budget, but my colleagues on this side represent 75 per cent of the households in Canada, and what I have heard from them—

Mr. Broadbent: In September.

Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre): They still represent 75 per cent of the households in Canada, I say to the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

During the course of the past few days my colleagues have talked to the widest range of Canadians which anyone has talked to, and I have heard directly from them the comments, and they are positive. The comments tell us this is a fair Budget, it's a realistic Budget, and it is being honest with Canadians. It is going to be effective in creating jobs, and realistic in getting the size of the deficit under control.

BUDGET PROVISIONS

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex-Windsor): Mr. Speaker, my quote with respect to deindexing, of course, was from the Hon. Minister of Employment and Immigration when she attacked the Liberal Government in 1982 about its last attempt to deindex pensions. Will the Minister of Finance agree that what was wrong in 1982 is wrong in 1985? Will he agree, as the Essex County Senior Citizens Federation told me yesterday morning, that a sense of decency and fairness requires that these pension measures be cut out of the present Budget?

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Hon. Michael Wilson (Minister of Finance): Mr. Speaker, let me remind the Hon. Member that we are trying to do two fundamental things in this Budget. First, we are trying to get Canadians back to work and, second, we are trying to get control of the massive debt which this country has built up over the past 15 years. We cannot do one without the other.