

On the economic side, the major task in this day and age is to achieve economic stability along with rapid progress. We must steer a course between the twin economic dangers of unemployment and of inflation. This is a major task not only of government but also of business and labour and of other groups in our community as well. Its solution will require action that is based on an understanding of both these problems. For this understanding, however, we need to see the problem in perspective and not to over-exaggerate the dangers either of inflation or unemployment.

In these tasks confronting us, we must above all recognize that of preserving the peace. This requires us not only to maintain a ready deterrent military strength but a skillful and wise diplomacy.

In all these tasks to which the Government of Canada must devote itself, the Civil Service of Canada are taking an active part. In the north they are to be found at the frontiers and the outposts. In the development of our resources, the surveyors and the road builders are at work. In the laboratories the scientists and technicians pursue their projects. In the offices at Ottawa, thousands work together to guide in the charting of the course of the nation's progress and carry out those measures of administration necessary to achieve it.

Our deterrent military strength requires not only the men in uniform but tens of thousands of Civil Servants to assist them. Our diplomacy abroad depends now upon the work and skill of many hundreds of career Civil Servants. Their quality is vividly illustrated by the situation today where in New York we can see one Canadian Civil Servant presiding over the Security Council of the United Nations and another Chairman of the Economic and Social Council.

The Civil Service in Canada is capable of these tasks demanded of it, throughout its ranks and across the land. Canada has reason to be proud of those who have chosen the Public Service as a career and of the traditions which the Service has established for itself.

The Government of Canada intends to maintain a Civil Service that will serve Canada well -- indeed increasingly well. It wants to improve the Service and to that end we plan to carry forward with a revision of the Civil Service Act. The present Act was mainly developed forty years ago. While the principles then established were good, the rapid changes of the past four decades have rendered need of substantial revision. The necessary preparatory work has been put in hand during the past year. The Civil Service Commission is making a thorough review of the Act, the regulations under it, the procedures and policies followed in administration. Possibilities of improvements are being thoroughly canvassed.

The Commission is consulting with your organizations of Civil Servants and invites suggestions. I can assure you that any suggestions made will be considered not only by the Commission but subsequently by the Government. The Commission is consulting the departments of government which they serve and others with a specialized knowledge of their problems. It is reviewing experience in other countries. The Chairman of the Commission is just now returning from the United Kingdom where he has been learning at first hand of their methods and problems. Another Commissioner will depart shortly for Washington on a similar mission.