

processors and consumers are adequately represented on marketing boards and agencies, so that they may operate more effectively.

Several measures will be placed before you to improve the national transportation system. For example, new ports legislation will be introduced which will enhance local autonomy while maintaining the overall national interest.

In the field of energy, it will continue to be the determined policy of the Government to work with the provinces toward the goal of self-reliance, particularly by encouraging exploration and conservation to reduce our dependence on imported oil. Further encouragement will be given to the development of energy saving technology, of renewable energy sources, and of the application of solar energy.

There are encouraging signs that the policy measures introduced over the past few years to promote exploration and development are beginning to bear fruit. In particular, exploration for natural gas in Western Canada appears to have been highly successful over the past two years. There are also encouraging prospects in the Beaufort Sea area and the Arctic Islands. Petro-Canada, in co-operation with the private sector, is seriously examining the feasibility of delivering natural gas to markets in Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces.

Exploration in the Arctic will be further encouraged by the proposed northern gas pipeline. A Bill will be placed before you to seek your approval for the implementation of the pipeline agreement negotiated with the Government of the United States. This historic agreement—which will launch one of the largest civil engineering projects in the history of the world—will provide immense benefits to Canada through jobs, investment, the purchase of materials and through easier and cheaper access to northern Canadian gas reserves.

You will also be asked to approve a Canadian Petroleum and Natural Gas Act, which will regulate oil and gas exploration on federally administered lands and establish a system of royalty payments.

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The Government is committed to ensure that northern development occurs in a manner consistent with the rights of northern native peoples to negotiate a just and reasonable settlement of their land claims, and to participate in and shape such development. Consultations with native groups are continuing. In the Yukon, the Government will propose special measures to ensure that pipeline construction will not prejudice native rights or foreclose opportunities. In the Northwest Territories, the Government has appointed a commissioner to consult with interested groups and advise on the pace and manner of the further constitutional evolution of the Territories.

So pervasive are economic influences on people's daily lives that failure to secure economic stability and justice would, in itself, stimulate a sense of alienation, mutual hostility, and divisiveness among Canadians. In the context of the current national unity debate, therefore, it is imperative that feelings of linguistic or cultural inequality not be allowed to be further

poisoned by evidence of economic injustice. Conversely, there is no doubt that the level of uncertainty evident in Quebec has a negative effect on the economy.

Few countries are as blessed as Canada, where a wealth of freedom and of this world's goods is apparent for all to see. Perhaps only those who have come here from less fortunate lands can appreciate to the full the great good fortune of living in a country so favored by nature, and so enriched by its cultural diversity.

Even in the midst of plenty, however, there are Canadians who know they are not receiving their fair share. To cite just one example, in those parts of the Atlantic Provinces where unemployment is particularly severe, some see themselves as an excluded group, able to gaze upon the good life only from a distance. There are many living in the West who have contributed much to Canada, yet believe their voice is little heard by others. There are many living in Quebec who feel deeply that Canada at present does not provide them with the opportunity to fulfill their reasonable aspirations. There are native peoples across the land who are still in search of a better life for themselves and their children.

This discontent in such a wealthy country must find its causes in the human spirit, and it is there also that the unity of the nation must be found. A greater willingness to listen to each other, to understand each other's needs, a greater generosity between individuals and between different parts of the country, a greater willingness to sacrifice so that others may have a chance, to take less so that others may have enough—all these are in the realm of the spirit. All are essential to the unity of the country. Governments, of course, have a special responsibility to both encourage and respond to the spirit of unity by their words and their actions. Canadians are, I believe, coming to recognize the seriousness of the problem. They are recognizing the need to make a new and deeper dedication to mutual understanding and sharing.

The Government dedicates itself profoundly to the re-discovery of the spirit of unity. It wishes to learn from all who are interested in Canada and who have thoughts on how it can be made a better place in which to live. It is prepared, particularly, to work with the governments of the provinces, all of whom have a vital interest in a better Canada.

The Government recently appointed the Task Force on Canadian Unity which is now in the process of canvassing opinion in all parts of Canada. The work of the Task Force should assist Canadians to participate more actively in debate, and to make a greater contribution to the future shaping of the country.

The Government will also be placing before Parliament, and in this way before the people of Canada, later in this Session, a measure that will contain a number of proposals relating to the Constitution of Canada, which it believes will be of particular importance for the future of the country. The proposals will be concerned, among other matters, with the essential nature of the Canadian federation and its objectives, with certain fundamental rights and freedoms which the Government feels