

made in the amount of pension, and also in the amount of other income permitted to pensioners. In addition, the pensionable age for blind persons has been lowered from forty to twenty-one years.

The Civil Service Superannuation Act has been amended to include additional categories of public servants and to permit retirement at an earlier age than heretofore. Comprehensive changes have also been made to increase the security provided by the Act. Statutory provision has been made for the veteran's preference in appointments to the civil service, and to permit of annual increases in remuneration to temporary employees.

Steady progress has been made in placing the defence forces on a peacetime basis. The Department of National Defence Act has been amended to provide for the consolidation of the administration of the department, and for the establishment of a Defence Research Board.

During the session, an important announcement of joint Canada-United States policy respecting co-operation in defence was made at Washington by the President and at Ottawa by the Prime Minister.

Other important measures enacted during the session include bills concerning a dominion coal board, a maritime commission, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, conservation of natural resources, loan adjustments with certain of the provinces, the Patent Act, penitentiaries and the Criminal Code. A benevolent fund from army canteen and other service funds has been established.

The representation of the people in the House of Commons has been readjusted on a basis which will more effectively maintain the historic principle of representation by population.

The question of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the manner in which those obligations, accepted by all members of the United Nations, may best be implemented, has been given preliminary consideration by a special joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons. It is the intention of my

ministers to recommend the reappointment of this committee at the next session of parliament.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provision you have made for all essential services.

A most gratifying achievement of the session now concluding has been the substantial reduction in the level of taxation on personal incomes, which became effective on the first of July, and which was made possible by the drastic reduction of public expenditures. At the end of the year, the tax on excess profits will be removed.

Authority to conclude tax agreements with the provinces has been vested in the government. Seven of the nine provinces have signified their intention to conclude such agreements.

A bill to revise the income tax law was introduced in order to permit of study and consideration of its provisions between now and the next session.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The recent visit of the President of the United States to Ottawa was deeply appreciated by the citizens of Canada. The visit afforded renewed evidence of the close and cordial relations of our two countries.

My ministers have been pleased to welcome a delegation from the National Convention of Newfoundland. Members of the delegation are exploring the possibility of finding a basis, which would be mutually acceptable, for the federal union of Newfoundland with Canada.

The people of Canada have learned with great pleasure of the betrothal of Her Royal Highness The Princess Elizabeth to Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten. As Her Royal Highness and Lieutenant Mountbatten continue to face the future with its duties and responsibilities, it will be the wish of all that health, happiness, and divine guidance may gladden their path through life.

Amid the uncertainties and perils of these troubled times, I pray that the guidance of Almighty God may be vouchsafed to our country and all the nations.