

Speech from the Throne

required. You will, accordingly, be asked to extend the Foreign Exchange Control Act for a further period.

The report of the royal commission on prices will be laid before you as soon as it has been submitted to the government.

Your approval will also be sought for legislation to continue in force steel control and a limited number of price controls, including control over the rental of housing accommodation.

You will be asked to make legislative provision for governmental assistance by loan to the producers of basic steel for the purpose of increasing production.

The governments of the provinces have been advised that the federal government is prepared to discontinue rent control in any province in which the government expresses the desire to assume the jurisdiction.

The provision of housing has received and continues to receive close attention. More new housing units were provided during the last calendar year than ever before.

Your approval will be sought for the establishment of a department of reconstruction and development to continue the functions now vested in the Department of Reconstruction and Supply, including the ministerial responsibility for the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

A measure for assistance in the provision of a transcontinental highway will also be laid before you.

A royal commission has been appointed to inquire into and report upon all questions of economic policy within the jurisdiction of parliament arising out of the operation and maintenance of national transportation. Together with the findings of the investigation by the board of transport commissioners, the report of the royal commission should furnish parliament and the government with the basis for a sound transportation policy.

The national health program, inaugurated by the government last year, is receiving co-operation from all the provinces. In supplementing provincial health measures, the program has already made a contribution to the health facilities of Canada and will thereby bring increasing benefit to our people.

A bill will be introduced to broaden the scope of the Family Allowances Act, as a further instalment of the policy of the government to provide a national standard of social security and human welfare designed to assure the greatest possible measure of social justice for all Canadians.

The organization of the armed forces to provide for unification and co-ordination has been pressed forward. Steady progress has been made in the recruitment and training of officers and men of the active and reserve forces, so that the navy, army and air force may be in a position to meet the defence needs of Canada as these may change from time to time.

Conditions of service in the armed forces are being further improved, and as rapidly as the results of research can be adequately tested, additional equipment is being made available. Amendments to existing legislation with respect to the armed forces will be recommended for your consideration.

Other measures to which your attention will be directed include bills respecting forest conservation, overseas telecommunications, the control and regulation of interprovincial and international pipe lines, and assistance for the Canadian shipbuilding industry. Your approval will be sought for measures to amend the Industrial Development Bank Act, the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act and the Prairie Farm Assistance Act.

It is the view of my ministers that there should be an examination of the activities of agencies of the federal government relating to radio, films, television, the encouragement of arts and sciences, research, the preservation of our national records, a national library, museums, exhibitions, relations in these fields with international organizations, and activities generally which are designed to enrich our national life, and to increase our own consciousness of our national heritage and knowledge of Canada abroad. For this purpose, the government intends at an early date to establish a royal commission.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make the customary provision for essential services.

Prosperous conditions now prevailing are being reflected in the buoyant level of national revenues; a condition to which due consideration is being given by my ministers in the preparation of forthcoming budgetary proposals.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The birth of a son to Their Royal Highnesses Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh has been the occasion of widespread rejoicing. Happiness over the birth of the Royal Prince has been tempered by regret over the indisposition of His Majesty the King. The people of Canada hope and pray for the complete recovery of the King's health.

Since the close of your last session, Mr. Mackenzie King has retired as Prime Minister. I feel it is the hope of all Canadians that Mr. King will be spared, over a long period and with less exacting responsibilities, to continue his distinguished and devoted service to Canada and the free world.

May Divine Providence bless your deliberations.

THE MINISTRY

RETIREMENT OF MR. MACKENZIE KING AS PRIME MINISTER—PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, this opening day of the fifth session of the twentieth parliament is one of rather more than usual significance. Since the last session of parliament, the right hon. the member for Glengarry (Mr. Mackenzie King) has retired as Prime Minister of Canada. For over twenty-one years he was the king's first minister in Ottawa. For a longer period than any other man he has been the elected head of a free people. For twenty-nine years he was the leader of one of our great national political parties, a party which, under his leadership, constantly remained national both in its policies and in its membership. Before that, Mr. King was successively a distinguished member of the Canadian civil service, a member of parliament, and, in the ministry of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's first minister of labour.

The record of his public service to Canada, to the British commonwealth and to the free world is indeed an enviable one. He has played an unrivalled part in the forward