

reducing surplus stocks. The drought in the Prairie Provinces during 1961 has resulted in severe losses, however, and you will be asked to provide assistance by means of acreage payments to the farmers who have been affected. Legislation will also be proposed to extend the period of application of the Farm Improvement Loans Act and the Fisheries Improvement Loans Act.

Important measures in the field of social welfare will also be proposed at this session. Your approval will be requested for an increase in the amount of the universal old age pension payable under the Old Age Security Act, and also for legislation to increase the amount to which the Federal Government will contribute under the Old Age Assistance Act, the Blind Persons Act and the Disabled Persons Act. After the concurrence of the Provinces for the necessary amendment to section 94A of the British North America Act has been secured, Parliament will be asked to approve a constitutional amendment in order to permit the introduction of a contributory system of old age pensions and related survivors' and disability benefits which will be in addition to the existing old age pension legislation and will take into account private pension arrangements and the need for legislation concerning portability of pension rights.

You will be asked to authorize the establishment of a national Council of Welfare similar to the Council of Health which has had a long record of usefulness.

You will be asked to approve an amendment to the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act to authorize the payment of allowances under specified conditions to merchant seamen, fire-fighters, foresters, members of voluntary aid detachments and certain other civilians whose war services overseas have been recognized in other respects. Other amending bills will provide for increased allowances and other improvements in the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act and also for the extension of the effective period of the War Services Grants Act and the Veterans Insurance Act and for the extension of the qualifying period under the Veterans Land Act.

My Government will also ask you to appropriate monies required in the Unemployment Insurance Fund to safeguard the rights of workers until the report of the Special Committee inquiring into the unemployment insurance programme has been received and can be acted upon.

You will be asked to increase the Federal grants to universities and make suitable provision in those cases where alternative arrangements are made for supplementary Provincial grants in lieu of Federal grants.

My Government is initiating negotiations with the provincial and municipal authorities with a view to removing the tolls on the Victoria and Jacques Cartier bridges in Montreal; should these be successful you will be asked to approve legislation for this purpose.

You will be asked to authorize the institution of an automobile ferry service between North Sydney, Nova Scotia, and Argentia, Newfoundland, and to provide for the construction of the necessary vessel and docks.

Other measures will be introduced to amend the Broadcasting Act, the Canada Shipping Act, the Canadian National Railways Capital Revision Act, the Bankruptcy Act and a number of other statutes. You will be asked to approve the ratification of the Universal Copyright Convention.