

69701—SPEECH FROM THE THRONE—

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*Honourable Members of the Senate:**Members of the House of Commons:*

As you enter upon your duties at the beginning of this New Year, you will be heartened by the improved position of the United Nations.

In the first year of war, most of the countries of Europe lost their freedom and became the victims of Nazi occupation and oppression. In the second year, the power of Italy was joined with that of Germany in an effort to seize new territories in Africa, as well as in Europe. In the third year, Japan entered the world conflict in the expectation of becoming the master of the Orient. These actions disclosed the pre-arranged schedule of world domination planned by the Axis powers. Each, at the appointed time, sprang upon its unoffending neighbours.

During these years, the nations which were attacked, and others still enjoying freedom, were necessarily on the defensive. For three years, the free nations continued to gather strength, at the same time affording such mutual aid, one to the other, as opportunity permitted.

In their attempt at world conquest, the forces of aggression still continue their campaigns of terror and violence. The world scene, however, has vastly changed from what it was a year ago. Enemy forces, everywhere, have been halted by stubborn and successful resistance. In many parts of the world, the Allied powers have taken the offensive.

The peoples of the Western Hemisphere now present a virtually united front against the axis powers.

The Government has maintained close relations with the nations with which Canada is united in the common struggle. Direct diplomatic representation has strengthened our relations with China and the Soviet Union, and with the several Allied Governments now temporarily resident in the United Kingdom. The establishment of diplomatic missions to nations of the Americas is broadening the friendly relations between those countries and Canada.

Our armed forces are on active service in all parts of the world. Their strength has been steadily increased. They are equipped with the most modern and efficient weapons of war. In actual combat, they have served with distinction and gallantry.

In the present year, the progressive expansion of the Navy will be continued. The Army programme will include the maintenance and reinforcement of the overseas army of two corps, and the maintenance of units and formations required for the territorial and coastal defence of Canada and other areas in the Western Hemisphere. The Air Force will continue its three-fold activities of air training, patrolling our coasts and coastal waters, and sharing in aerial combat overseas. Increased responsibilities will be assumed for the maintenance of Canadian airmen serving abroad.

As an integral part of Canada's total war effort, ships, aircraft, weapons, munitions, foodstuffs and other supplies will continue to be provided, not only for Canada's forces, but in vast quantities as well for the forces of our fighting allies. In order to provide for the financing and allocation of Canadian war production, a measure to make provision for the establishment of a Canadian War Supplies Allocation Board will be submitted for your approval.

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