

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and, that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Fourth Session of the Twenty-fourth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I greet you as you resume your parliamentary duties.

In the course of the year I have travelled through our country from ocean to ocean and have been happy to observe everywhere the fealty and devotion of all Canadians to the Crown.

We meet in a world of continued international tension which has prompted my Government to redouble its efforts to bring about a general acceptance of peaceful means of settling disputes. It has reaffirmed its readiness to co-operate in the United Nations and elsewhere in the development of conditions that would lead to the attainment of this goal. My Prime Minister and other representatives of the Government have stated forcefully the views of Canada of these matters and they have received widespread support from the Canadian people.

The commonwealth has continued to demonstrate its vitality. Nigeria was welcomed to full commonwealth membership at the beginning of last month and additional new members will enter this coming year. Continuing constitutional development in the commonwealth is likely to be considered at a Prime Ministers' Conference in 1961.

Disarmament under international control is the key to an enduring world peace. My Government has accordingly maintained its unremitting efforts to achieve progress in this field. Until such time as disarmament under effective control can be achieved, however, it is necessary to ask you to maintain well-trained and well-armed Canadian defence forces, adequate to meet Canada's defence obligations. My ministers will reaffirm Canada's support for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization as a defensive alliance dedicated to maintaining the peace.

The unanimous approval given by the United Nations to a joint resolution embodying the essence of the Canadian proposal for a United Nations Food Bank is a matter for satisfaction.

Important international tariff negotiations began in September in Geneva and will last well into next year; my ministers have made

clear that these negotiations should be used as a means of finding solutions to the current European trade problems in a manner that will not harm the interests of other trading nations.

Important conferences with the provincial Governments have taken place in recent months. In accordance with the objective expressed by the Prime Minister early in your last session, two meetings have been held at which progress has been made in discussion of means of amending the Constitution of Canada in Canada and relieving the Parliament at Westminster of its residual responsibility in regard to the British North America Act. Further meetings have been arranged. Two conferences on fiscal arrangements have been held and further exchanges of views will take place. You will in due course be asked to approve legislation concerning Dominion-Provincial fiscal arrangements for the period commencing April 1962.

At the present time Canada's foreign trade is at a record level and exports to the United Kingdom and commonwealth countries have shown a remarkable increase this year. Economic expansion has also had the result that more Canadians have been employed this year than in any previous year and labour income is at an all-time high. The Government recognizes, however the necessity of continuing the expansion of the national economy at a pace sufficient to provide jobs for the record numbers who are now entering the labour force, as well as jobs for those who are displaced by automation and other technological changes.

Accordingly you will be asked to approve measures designed to increase immediate employment opportunities and also measures which will constitute a large further instalment in the long-range program of national development.

Among the first measures, the Government has already announced its intention of seeking your approval of another and larger program of assistance to municipalities for winter works projects; this announcement has already given rise to intense efforts across Canada in which all levels of government are joining. My ministers have also expressed their intention of carrying out all possible federal works during the winter. In recommending approval of these programs to you, my ministers are confident that provinces and municipalities, business and labour, and all citizens will co-operate in a continuing effort to put more Canadians to work.

With a view to avoiding any interruption in the building of urgently needed hospitals, it is deemed appropriate to announce now the intention of the Government to recommend to Parliament that the federal grants for