

My Ministers have come to the conclusion that large scale, long-term contracts for the export of power surplus to Canada's needs, present and potential, should now be encouraged in order to expedite the development of major power projects in Canada which are too large to be supported by the domestic market. Such exports can also strengthen our balance of payments.

In recognition of the important role of transportation in the Canadian economy, you will be asked to approve measures to give effect to recommendations of the Royal Commission on Transportation which has now completed its comprehensive analysis of the Canadian railway problem. These changes are intended to remove the need for general horizontal freight rate increases which have borne so heavily in the past upon certain areas and groups of producers. You will also be asked to provide for an extension of the Freight Rates Reduction Act and the other interim railway subsidies provided by appropriation.

Amendments will be proposed to the Canada Shipping Act to preserve for Canadian vessels the coasting trade in the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes area. Funds will be requested to implement the programme of shipbuilding subsidies announced some months ago.

You will be asked to provide for the continuation of the Winter Works Programme to assist municipalities in meeting seasonal unemployment.

Far-reaching changes are taking place in manpower requirements in Canadian industries as a result of automation, other technological developments and world competitive pressures. A measure will be placed before you designed to assist employers, workers and their organizations in meeting the impact of industrial change.

My Government will also place before you legislation to provide safeguards against accidents and hazards in works and undertakings within the Federal fields of jurisdiction.

The Committee inquiring into matters relating to the Unemployment Insurance Fund is expected to submit its report this autumn. Following consideration of this report, appropriate measures will be placed before you.

In order to permit the introduction of a national system of contributory old age pensions with disability and survivor benefits, an amendment to the British North America Act is required. The governments of all provinces except Quebec and Newfoundland have concurred in such an amendment. My Government is prepared to recommend to you the approval of an Address to Her Majesty requesting the amendment when the concurrence of these remaining provinces has been received.

As pension plans have become ever more widely extended in Canadian business, it has been increasingly recognized that measures are essential to protect the interests of those affected and in particular to ensure that the benefits earned are portable when workers move from job to job. Provincial legislation would be required for this purpose in most cases, and several provinces are considering proposals of this nature. My Government will be prepared to place before you complementary legislation to deal with industries under Federal jurisdiction when adequate progress has been made by provinces.

A measure will be placed before you to authorize the establishment of a national council of welfare to make more fully effective the action of both Federal and Provincial Governments in this field.