

Legislation respecting the Senate will be introduced.

To ensure that the redistribution of electoral districts is made objectively and impartially, you will be asked to approve a bill to establish an independent commission to recommend redistribution.

A measure will be placed before you to establish an Indian Claims Commission to investigate claims on the part of various tribes and bands that certain of their rights have been restricted or abrogated, and to make recommendations for the equitable and final settlement of such claims.

Economic activity in Canada has moved ahead sharply. This strong advance has resulted in more than 200,000 new jobs during the past twelve months. The objective of my Government is to accelerate this pace of advance. This would mean the creation over the next five years of more than 1 million new jobs and a corresponding growth in gross national product and in production for both the export and domestic market, already at record levels.

Such high levels of activity have not prevented the emergence of foreign exchange difficulties similar to those which confronted Canada in crisis proportions in 1947, and to those which have affected other major trading nations more recently. In June my Government found it necessary to put into immediate effect a comprehensive programme to strengthen the country's exchange reserves. Since that time Canada's exchange reserves have increased substantially. It is my Government's firm intention to remove the import surcharges included in this programme as soon as circumstances permit.

My Government will continue to take positive, constructive measures to strengthen Canada's balance of international payments. The recently stabilized exchange rate for the Canadian dollar has greatly helped Canadian producers in all parts of Canada both in the domestic and export markets. The new exchange rate is contributing as well to a large expansion in the Canadian tourist industry, which has also been aided by joint efforts of the Federal and Provincial Governments.

Canada's development will continue to require imports of capital, and to this end my Government will maintain a climate in Canada hospitable to foreign investment.

As one of my Government's measures to develop the Canadian economy, maintain a high level of employment and strengthen the balance of payments, you will be asked to approve legislation establishing a National Economic Development Board. This Board would be broadly representative and would review and report upon the state of the economy and upon economic policies. It would also have the duty of recommending to the Government particular projects or measures which it considers would be in the interest of national development, including projects which may require direct governmental participation by way of financial aid or otherwise.

The objective of my Ministers is a balanced budget. This will require the exercise of restraint in respect of controllable spending and an increased concentration of available resources on essential national projects designed to ensure the expansion of the Canadian economy. Steps will be taken to improve further the efficiency of government operations. The report of the Royal Commission on Government Organization will be helpful in achieving this improve-