

Deputy Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following bills:

An Act to amend the Labour Adjustment Benefits Act and to authorize certain payments in relation thereto.

An Act to amend the Financial Administration Act.

An Act to amend the Garnishment, Attachment and Pension Diversion Act.

An Act to authorize investment in and the provision of financial assistance to the Atlantic Fisheries for the purpose of restructuring fishery enterprises.

The Honourable Lloyd Francis, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons, then addressed His Excellency the Governor General as follows:

May it please Your Excellency:

The Commons of Canada have voted certain supplies required to enable the Government to defray the expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Commons, I present to Your Excellency the following bill:

An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the Government of Canada for the financial year ending the 31st March, 1984.

To which bill I humbly request Your Excellency's assent.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the said bill.

### PROROGATION SPEECH

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to close the First Session of the Thirty-second Parliament with the following speech:

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I have the honour today of closing the longest and most productive session in the history of the Canadian Parliament. During the three and a half year period in which you have been sitting more than 200 pieces of legislation have been introduced and over 150 of these have been proclaimed into law.

This session has been remarkable not only for the number of bills passed, but for the magnitude of their impact. The Government recognized that those who wait for unanimity never act, and that those who do not act are engulfed by the wave of events of a rapidly changing world. Accordingly, the Government launched a series of bold initiatives, any one of which would have been sufficient to make this session of Parliament an exceptional one. Four in particular have transformed Canada.

Following the Quebec referendum, the Government initiated the process of federal renewal which it promised would ensue from a rejection of sovereignty association, patriating the Canadian Constitution with an amending

formula and an entrenched Charter of Rights and Freedoms. A National Energy Program is in force providing a comprehensive set of measures designed to achieve security of supply, greater Canadian ownership and fairness to the consumer. The federal Government's 6&5 program established a framework for the cooperative national effort which has enabled Canada to realize a dramatic reduction in inflation. And the new Western Grain Transportation Act will replace the outdated Crow's Nest Pass freight rate with a more fair and equitable set of rates, thus completing the necessary groundwork for a major expansion of western rail capacity during the balance of the decade.

### *Meeting the Challenges of World Recession*

These four achievements represent the highlights of the Parliamentary session which now is coming to an end; they have been attained in the midst of one of the most turbulent periods which Canada has experienced outside of wartime. The past three and a half years have been marked by global recession, by unstable international petroleum markets, by increased levels of East-West tension, and by the displacement of millions of people around the planet by war, hunger and economic deprivation.

The Canadian response to these troubled times has been, not to retrench, but to meet these greater challenges through a more effective mobilization of our resources. The Government took steps to protect Canadians as much as possible from the ravages of international recession, and to battle domestic inflation. The stage thus was set for the renewed growth and job creation which we are now experiencing.

The centrepiece of the Government's battle against inflation was the 6&5 program, introduced last year to limit increases in incomes and prices regulated by the Federal Government to six percent and five percent respectively over two years. The compulsory restraint measures introduced in the federal public service were reinforced by widespread voluntary adoption of these guidelines by the private sector and the provinces.

The impact of the 6&5 program was enhanced by continuing Government restraint over the discretionary component of its expenditures, and by monetary policy conducted in a way which would not accommodate inflation. The "envelope" system placed pre-set limits on spending in each area of government responsibility, and ensured that policy and funding decisions were taken simultaneously. Improved management practices were implemented generating 122 million dollars in recurring annual savings; opportunities for realizing further annual savings of 139 million dollars have also been identified. Many of the recommendations of the Lambert Commission on Financial Management and Accountability were adopted. As a result of these efforts, the Government's "real", or inflation-adjusted, non-defence operating and