

Prorogation of Parliament

Then the Speaker of the House of Commons addressed the Deputy Governor General as follows:

May it please Your Honour:

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

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

An act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1964.

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

To this bill the Clerk of the Senate, by command of the Deputy Governor General, did thereupon say:

In Her Majesty's name, the Honourable the Deputy Governor General thanks her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this bill.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

After which the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the first session of the twenty sixth parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The twenty sixth parliament opened on May 16 and you have at this first session, occupying a total of 23 weeks, enacted much important legislation designed to advance in many ways the well-being of Canada and Canadians.

It has been encouraging to note some easing of tension in international relations, expressed particularly in the successful conclusion of a multi-lateral treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and underwater. This treaty was signed on behalf of my government on August 8, 1963. Further progress toward improved understanding between nations is urgently necessary. To this end my government continues, at the United Nations and elsewhere, to participate fully in the attempt to ease international tensions.

Canadians have shared the grief of the people of the United States over the tragic and untimely death of President Kennedy, whose contribution to the causes of freedom and peace has been of immeasurable importance for all the world.

The Canadian economy is currently enjoying a good rate of growth. It is gratifying that in recent months unemployment has been reduced to the lowest rate experienced since 1957, though further progress remains to be made. Exports have substantially increased and the payments deficit with other countries has been reduced. The recent wheat crop was the largest in Canada's history and exports of wheat in the current crop year are expected to establish a new record. My government has renewed on satisfactory terms the trade agreement with the U.S.S.R. first made in 1956 and has entered into wheat sales agreements with that country and with Poland, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. The Canadian wheat board has entered into a long term arrangement for the sale of wheat to mainland China.

My government has held conferences with the governments of all the provinces. Matters of mutual interest have been reviewed in a spirit of co-operative federalism. Arrangements for closer and more continuous consultation in future have been made. The federal government has indicated certain

changes which it proposes to make in fiscal arrangements with the provinces for the next financial year. A wider range of other subjects, including certain features of the federal government's proposed Canada pension plan, have been examined. The principal conference in November was followed by a meeting of the federal and provincial ministers of trade and industry and a meeting of the ministers of agriculture. Further studies have been arranged, as a preliminary to another conference with the premiers of the provinces.

My government has established a royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism and has taken steps to increase bilingualism in the public service. Many of the recommendations of the royal commission on government organization are being put into effect.

A committee of the House of Commons has inquired into matters of national defence and my government is undertaking a full review of defence policy in the light of modern conditions. Arrangements have been made for the provision of nuclear warheads for those previously acquired weapons which require them.

In recognition of the need to provide a fair share of assistance to the less developed nations, my ministers have announced an increase in Canada's external aid program and the initiation of a food aid program to supplement the other forms of assistance.

Negotiations for the clarification of the Columbia river treaty, and for the sale of downstream power, have been conducted with the government of the United States in full co-operation with the government of British Columbia.

The House of Commons has established a committee to make recommendations on its procedure and organization.

You have enacted a measure to provide for the office of a representation commissioner to facilitate the equitable redistribution of representation in the House of Commons.

You have enacted legislation under which has been established the economic council of Canada, which will advise how Canada can achieve the highest possible levels of employment and efficient production in order that the country may enjoy a high and consistent rate of economic growth and that all Canadians may share in rising living standards.

You have adopted measures to stimulate industrial expansion in Canada through tax incentives, and to encourage greater participation by Canadians in the ownership of Canadian industry.

You have also authorized the establishment of the Department of Industry in order to encourage the development and efficiency of manufacturing industries in Canada. In the same act you have provided for an area development agency which, in collaboration with the provinces, will assist in programs for the development of districts where economic growth has been slow and unemployment especially serious and persistent.

You have adopted measures to provide special tax incentives for industrial expansion in such areas.

The Atlantic Development Board Act has been amended to increase the number of members and to provide for a capital development fund of \$100 million.

You have enacted the Municipal Development and Loan Act to make available funds for additional municipal projects, administered in co-operation with the provincial governments.

You have also authorized the provision of greater incentives to municipal winter works and an acceleration during the winter months of federal works in development areas, which have contributed substantially to the maintenance of employment.