

*Prorogation of Parliament***PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT**

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

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The twenty-fourth parliament has commenced with a most active and noteworthy session.

We have been glad to welcome this summer Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret on her visit to Canada. We look forward with great pleasure to the presence in Canada next year of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen on the occasion of the opening of the St. Lawrence seaway.

During this present session you have welcomed and heard in parliament the President of the United States, the President of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and the Prime Minister of Ghana. These visits have provided a valuable and timely opportunity for discussions of problems of mutual interest and for an exchange of impressions on broader issues.

My government has been encouraged by indications of progress during the last few months in the field of disarmament and by recent developments in the Middle East situation but the general outlook remains uncertain and in particular, the current tension in the Far East is a source of deep concern.

My government took an active role at the emergency special session of the general assembly of the United Nations in promoting measures that would serve as a basis for a comprehensive effort to reduce tension and improve conditions in the Middle Eastern area.

My ministers have welcomed the announcement by the United States and United Kingdom governments of their readiness to suspend tests of nuclear weapons for one year while negotiations for a political agreement take place; they hope that as a result there will emerge an effective agreement among the nuclear powers continuing the suspension of testing under effective international supervision. The prospect of further technical talks to examine possible safeguards against surprise attack gives ground for hope of additional progress in this important field of disarmament.

My ministers welcome the approval you have given to the important agreement for the integration of the air defence of North America. Measures are being worked out to ensure that such defence is maintained on an efficient and economical basis consistent with the rapid technical changes in this field. Furthermore, arrangements have been initiated for closer consultation by ministers with members of the United States administration in the field of defence policy.

Your support of programs to provide practical assistance to the peoples of the less developed regions of the world through the medium of the United Nations, under the Colombo plan and under special arrangements for the West Indies and Ghana has been further evidence of the desire of Canadians to participate in international programs of economic as well as humanitarian importance.

You have had laid before you a report on the international conference on the law of the sea held in Geneva early this year and the five conventions agreed upon by that conference. My ministers will support the early convening of a second international conference on the law of the sea to deal with the important questions left unsettled at Geneva.

My government has been gratified to observe the improvement in the general economic conditions in Canada. It will continue its efforts to increase

employment and ameliorate the condition of those temporarily unable to find work.

During the present session you have enacted measures of major benefit to the people of Canada.

You have authorized an increase in the public funds made available under the National Housing Act to ensure the further progress of our housing program.

You extended for a further six weeks during this year the period during which seasonal benefits were paid under the Unemployment Insurance Act.

You have provided for increases in the pensions of former members of the civil service, the armed forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

You have reviewed and improved the Veterans Insurance Act, the Returned Soldiers' Insurance Act and the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act, and increased the benefits payable thereunder.

As a further interim measure to meet the needs of the grain producers in the prairie provinces, pending the working out of long term measures, you have provided an acreage payment to such producers. The Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act has been revised in the light of experience in its operation. The benefits of the Prairie Farm Assistance Act have been extended to an increased number of farmers. The lending power of the Canadian farm loan board has been enlarged. The Canada Agricultural Products Standards Act has been amended, and the amounts payable under the Animal Contagious Diseases Act have been increased.

You have approved the necessary arrangements with the government of Saskatchewan for carrying out the South Saskatchewan project and provided for the immediate commencement of construction of the main dam in this important undertaking.

You have made provision for the establishment of an office to assist small business in Canada.

You have provided a needed increase in the support furnished by parliament for the universities of Canada.

The Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act has been amended to set a definite and earlier date for the commencement of the payments authorized by it.

You have completely revised the legislation relating to taxes on estates, making it more equitable and practical as well as alleviating the burden on smaller estates. You have revised the Income Tax Act, and increased the exemptions from sales tax under the Excise Tax Act.

The National Capital Act which you have passed will make possible the more effective continuation of the long term development and improvement of the national capital and its immediate environs.

You have passed an important act to provide for the regulation of broadcasting in Canada and to ensure the continued operation of a national broadcasting system that will furnish a varied and comprehensive service of a high standard that is Canadian in content and character.

In the Parole Act you have created an orderly and permanent basis for the reform and rehabilitation of those confined to penitentiaries and their integration into society as useful citizens.

There has been placed before you a bill of rights for the recognition and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Canada coming within the jurisdiction of parliament. There will now be an opportunity for this measure to receive careful study before action on it is finally taken by parliament.

Other measures enacted at this session include acts to approve the income tax conventions with Belgium and the Belgian Congo, the Canadian National Railways Financing and Guarantee Act,