

Speech from the Throne

Believing that the ultimate success of efforts to improve Canada's trade and employment and the standard of living of Canadian workers depends largely upon increasing Canadian productivity, my ministers will ask you to authorize the establishment of a productivity council. Its membership would include Canadians from the fields of industry and commerce, organized labour, agriculture and other primary production, as well as qualified individuals chosen from the public at large and from the scientific agencies of government. The purpose of this council would be to strengthen Canada's competitive position in export and domestic markets by improving the productivity of primary and secondary industries.

You will also be asked to give early consideration to a bill authorizing government guarantees for bank loans to small businesses to finance additions and improvements to their business premises and equipment. My ministers are convinced that additional medium term credit facilities for small businesses would enable many private projects to go forward this winter all across Canada, providing substantial additional employment. Moreover, this addition to our credit legislation will constitute a continuing stimulus to the growth of Canadian private enterprise.

A bill will also be laid before you to extend the assistance given to provincial governments for vocational training, both in the school system and in the training and retraining of those who have already become workers. With more advanced technology in industry and the need to increase productivity, better technical training of the youth of Canada is required and more retraining of Canadian workers who have to transfer to other jobs or trades. This is particularly necessary in those areas where job opportunities in traditional industries are limited. In order to get this program under way quickly, you will be asked to approve grants of 75 per cent of the amounts expended, up to March 31, 1963, in building approved technical schools or training institutions.

Amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act will be placed before you to safeguard the basic purpose of the act, to strengthen the fund and to correct abuses which have developed in practice.

As an additional step in the national agricultural program, you will also be asked to approve enabling legislation to authorize the federal government to join with provincial authorities and local groups throughout Canada in comprehensive programs of rural rehabilitation and development. My ministers believe that as farming is a basic Canadian industry it must be made more stable and remunerative. Widening the uses of Canada's farm lands and water resources will be necessary for this purpose.

Among other measures in the long range program, you will be requested to approve a number of major projects of national development. The largest of these will be the development of the water power on the Columbia river. Agreement has been reached with the government of the United States on a plan for the co-operative development of the use of these waters and a treaty will be submitted to you for approval in due course. You will also be asked to take the action necessary to fulfil Canada's part in implementing it.

You will be requested to approve several projects of railway development in opening up Canada's frontier. One of these will be a Canadian National Railway line to the new mining area near Mattagami lake in northwestern Quebec, which will aid in the rapid expansion of the mineral industry of that great province.

You will be asked to appropriate funds to enable a detailed survey to be made of the western route for the railway from northern Alberta to Great Slave lake.

Other major projects for which appropriations will be requested include a floodway to protect the city of Winnipeg and nearby communities and works to conserve and control the waters of the upper Thames river in southwestern Ontario.

My government has decided that the modernization of the Customs Tariff of Canada, on which much has been accomplished in recent years, should be substantially accelerated. To make this feasible on a sound and fair basis, you will be asked to enlarge the tariff board and authorize it to sit in two panels.

You will also be asked to revise the definition in the Customs Tariff of goods of a class or kind made in Canada.

It is the intention of my Minister of Finance to present a supplementary budget to you before the Christmas recess.

You will be invited to consider means by which to encourage a greater participation by Canadians in the ownership and control of industry and resources in Canada.

You will be asked to approve legislation requiring the disclosure of information by business and labour organizations in Canada controlled from outside Canada.

You will be asked to amend legislation to enlarge the investment and other powers of insurance companies.

Amendments to the Pensions Act will be recommended, which will include substantial increases in the pensions payable to veterans or their dependants.

You will also be asked to consider means of encouraging the youth of Canada in amateur athletics.

A bill to revise the Civil Service Act will again be submitted for your approval. A bill to revise the Immigration Act will be laid before you. You will also be asked to revise the Penitentiaries Act to bring it into accord with my minister's policies of correctional reform. Amendments will be proposed to the Criminal Code having to do with capital punishment and with the treatment of criminal sexual psychopaths.

It is considered desirable to provide for broader representation on the board of directors of the Canadian National Railway; legislation will be introduced to increase the number of directors accordingly.

Amendments to the Canada Shipping Act will be proposed.

Other legislation and amendments to a number of other statutes will also be proposed. Several special committees will be re-established.

Members of the House of Commons:

The estimates of amounts required for the public service and the payments authorized by parliament will be laid before you. These will include an appropriation for the work of the royal commission on government organization which has been recently established to recommend improvements in the organization and methods of operation of the departments and agencies of the government which it thinks will best promote efficiency, economy and improved service in the dispatch of public business.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May divine Providence bless you and guide you.