

Speech from the Throne

continent is becoming increasingly apparent. It is the view of my ministers that the Canadian authorities should be kept in a position to co-operate promptly in undertaking construction of the project once affirmative action has been taken by the appropriate United States authorities.

Your approval will be sought for an appropriate Canadian participation in the Colombo plan and in technical assistance to underdeveloped areas.

The policies of the government are designed to prevent war, but the dangers of the international situation and the magnitude of the defence effort required as a deterrent have, in the opinion of my ministers, created an emergency situation. You will accordingly be asked to approve legislation vesting in the governor in council additional powers to ensure adequate defence preparations to meet the present emergency and to prevent economic dislocation resulting from defence preparations.

You will also be asked to approve a bill to establish a Department of Defence Production to act as a procurement agency for the defence forces of Canada and also for such defence requirements of our allies as may be met from Canadian production.

Amendments to legislation relating to the armed forces will also be submitted for your approval.

Legislation will be submitted respecting the application of the benefits of the veterans charter to members of the special force. Amendments will be introduced to legislation concerning pensions for veterans and their dependents to relieve difficulties being experienced by certain groups of pensioners provided for thereunder.

Appropriate amendments to the Canadian Citizenship Act will be introduced to prevent the retention of Canadian citizenship by persons who have renounced their allegiance or shown by their conduct that they are not loyal to Canada.

The high level of employment and production within our country give our people increased capacity to meet the demands of national and international security.

The spirit of unity so happily reflected in the conferences between the federal and provincial governments is further evidence of our ability to make an effective national response to the emergency.

Proposals were laid before the provincial governments for new tax agreements and for a contributory old age pensions program along the lines recommended by the joint committee at the last regular session.

The provincial governments are at present giving consideration to these proposals and to proposals for constitutional amendments which may require to be submitted to you before the close of the present session.

You will be asked to consider measures respecting federal grants to municipalities in lieu of taxation of crown property, the abolition of the requirement of the fiat in the case of petitions of right, and the bequests of Laurier House and Kingsmere.

You will also be asked to consider a complete revision of the Indian Act and the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act.

Other measures to be introduced will include amendments to the Immigration Act, the Post Office Act, the Central Mortgage and Housing Act, the Gold Mining Assistance Act and the Customs Act.

It is anticipated that the reports of the royal commissions on transportation and on national development in the arts, letters and sciences will become available during the course of the session.

[Mr. Speaker.]

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make provision for national defence and the meeting of our obligations under the United Nations charter and the North Atlantic treaty, as well as for all essential services.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence bless your deliberations and give to our people the fortitude and patience to sustain the trials of these troubled times.

MOTION FOR PRECEDENCE OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to move, seconded by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe):

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration on Wednesday next, and that, unless and until otherwise ordered, this order have precedence over all other business except introduction of bills and government notices of motions until disposed of.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the standing committees of this house under standing order 63, said committee to be composed of Messrs. Fournier (Hull), Claxton, Casselman, Shaw and Weir.

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an approved minute of council, appointing the Hon. Alphonse Fournier, Minister of Public Works, the Hon. D. C. Abbott, Minister of Finance, the Hon. J. J. McCann, Minister of National Revenue, and the Hon. F. G. Bradley, Secretary of State of Canada, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 145 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1927, intitled: An act respecting the House of Commons.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) moved:

That Louis Rene Beaudoin, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Vaudreuil-Soulanges, be appointed deputy chairman of committees of the whole house.

Motion agreed to.