

Amendments to the National Housing Act will be laid before you. The rapid growth of our centres of population has been a spectacular feature of our national development since the last war, and in that growth wide use has been made of the National Housing Act by our citizens, particularly in suburban areas. One amendment now to be proposed is designed to increase assistance to encourage redevelopment of older sections of our cities to their best use.

Early last year the home improvement section of the act was proclaimed. It has contributed greatly toward the betterment of many existing houses. An amendment will be laid before you to increase the amounts of loans available for this purpose.

A joint committee of both houses will be proposed to review the progress and programs of the federal district commission in developing the national capital.

In the field of industrial development you will be asked to extend the scope of the Industrial Development Bank. You will also be asked to increase the size of loans which may be made by the Canadian farm loan board and to amend the Farm Improvement Loans Act.

My ministers also plan to introduce a bill to provide that women receive equal pay with men for equal work in industries which are under federal jurisdiction.

You will be asked to revise the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act and the Dominion Succession Duty Act. You will be requested to consider amendments to the Canadian Wheat Board Act, the Supreme Court Act, the Excise Act, the Canada Shipping Act, the Small Loans Act, the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act, the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, the Canadian Citizenship Act and the Indian Act.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make provision for all essential services.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May divine Providence bless your deliberations.

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

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration on Wednesday next.

Motion agreed to.

THE LATE HON. ALCIDE COTE

(Translation):

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I am deeply moved at this time as I rise to pay tribute, at the very beginning of this session, to the memory of the late Alcide Cote, who died at his St. Jean home on August 7 last. Every hon. member must have been as shocked as I was on learning of the death of a colleague esteemed by all, at an age which still held the promise of many more years of fruitful labour in the public service. While we were not unaware of the seriousness of his illness, we had thought that his return to this house, on June 8 last, after a few months' rest, justified the assumption that before too long he would be able to resume all his duties. The

Tribute to Hon. Alcide Cote

spontaneous applause, from all parts of the house, which greeted his return here on that occasion, told more eloquently than I am able to say today of the affection and high esteem we all had for him.

The late Alcide Cote could proudly claim direct descent from one of the first Canadian settlers. After completing his studies at the College of St. Jean and the University of Montreal, he practised law in the city of St. Jean, of which he was mayor from 1945 to 1949. For several years he took an active part in the initiatives of the bar association of his province, of the union of municipalities, of the chamber of commerce and of numerous other associations.

Mr. Cote had first been elected to the House of Commons in 1945. His constituents had renewed his mandate in the general elections of 1949 and 1953. In 1952, he had been sworn as a member of the privy council and appointed postmaster general.

Mr. Cote's participation in public affairs, in the field of his profession and in municipal and federal politics is abundant evidence of the interest he had dedicated to the welfare of his fellow citizens. The passing of our colleague has caused deep regret among the members of this house as well as in all the other spheres in which he had carried out his beneficent activities. And it is, I believe, the spontaneousness and sincerity of such regrets which constitute the most touching tribute that could be paid to his memory.

(Text):

Since we last met, Mr. Speaker, death has removed from our midst an esteemed and helpful colleague, Hon. Alcide Cote, at a time in his life when it might have been expected that he could look forward to many more years of useful activity.

I am sure I speak for all members of the house in saying that Mr. Cote will be remembered in this assembly for his gentlemanly nature and his deep consideration for his fellow men, which made him one of the most popular members of the house. Those endearing qualities were combined with a deep sense of responsibility as a citizen. Throughout his career in the professional, municipal and federal fields, he worked hard and conscientiously for the welfare of the people who had put their trust in him, and gave of himself unstintingly in the service of the nation as a whole.

Another trait of his personality which I am sure all hon. members would have me recall