

the last session of parliament and to extend its scope your approval will be sought for an amendment to the National Housing Act.

Provision has been made for the insertion in all federal government contracts of clauses prohibiting discrimination on the part of the contractor against any person in regard to employment because of that person's race, national origin, colour or religion.

You will be asked to consider a bill to make similar provisions in respect of employment upon or in connection with any work, undertaking or business that is within the legislative authority of the parliament of Canada.

A bill designed to provide greater educational opportunities for children whose fathers died as a result of war service will be placed before you.

You will also be asked to approve a bill to authorize the continuance of the Veterans Benefit Act.

Much has been accomplished since the inauguration in 1948 of the five year national health grants program to strengthen and improve, in co-operation with the provincial governments, the health and hospital facilities available to our people. To ensure the continued expansion of this important work, my government proposes to ask you to give consideration to the extension, with certain changes, of this program of co-operation with the provincial governments.

You will have learned with regret that the Library of Parliament has been damaged by fire. The building must soon be vacated and extensive reconstruction carried out, in order to guard against a repetition of this disaster. These circumstances have made the need for a National Library more immediate and more pressing. My ministers have therefore taken steps to bring the library into existence with the least possible delay. A site for the building has been chosen, and you will be asked to make provision for the necessary planning and preliminary work.

At the time television broadcasting was started in Toronto and Montreal in September, the Prime Minister announced that parliament would be asked to provide for the establishment of three additional public television stations, one in the Maritimes, one on the Prairies and one on the Pacific coast and that active consideration was being given to the role of private enterprise in television broadcasting.

You will accordingly be asked to make provision to enable the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to establish television stations in the Halifax, Winnipeg and Vancouver areas. My ministers have indicated to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that they are now prepared to consider applications for licences for private television broadcasting stations which may be recommended by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation to serve areas which could not be served at this time by public stations, with the objective of making television as widely available throughout the country as may be feasible through appropriate co-operation between the corporation and private agencies.

A measure will be submitted designed to place the Crown in substantially the same position as a private person with respect to liability for acts committed by its servants, for breach of duty arising out of the ownership or occupation of property, and for salvage claims, and also to confer upon provincial courts jurisdiction concurrent with that of the Exchequer Court of Canada to entertain certain classes of claims.

Measures respecting the payment of rural mail carriers will be submitted for your consideration.

To meet conditions resulting from the entry of the province of Newfoundland into confederation, and the introduction of new methods of fishing off the Atlantic coast, a bill to revise the Customs and Fisheries Protection Act will be placed before you.

You will also be asked to consider legislation to implement the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the north Pacific ocean.

A bill will be introduced to place the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada on a statutory basis.

The measure to revise and consolidate the Criminal Code will be re-introduced at this session.

You will be asked to consider legislation to amend the Trust Companies Act and the Loan Companies Act to authorize companies incorporated thereunder to invest in bonds issued by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

You will also be asked to consider legislation to provide for the incorporation by Parliament and for federal supervision of co-operative credit societies desiring to operate in more than one province under such legislation.

You will be asked to consider revisions of the Civil Service Superannuation Act; the Food and Drugs Act; the Yukon Act; and the legislation respecting Trade Marks.

Other measures to be introduced will include amendments to the Trans-Canada Air Lines Act, the Merchant Seamen Compensation Act, the Canadian Citizenship Act, the Statistics Act, the Indian Act, the Farm Improvement Loans Act, the Prisons and Reformatories Act, the Companies Creditors Arrangement Act, the Canada Evidence Act, the Judges Act, the Canada Shipping Act, the Civil Service Insurance Act, the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation Act and to the Territorial Lands Act.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make provision for all essential services, and for national defence and the meeting of our obligations under the United Nations Charter and the North Atlantic Treaty, during the next fiscal year.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence bless your deliberations.

The House of Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

Prayers.

RAILWAY BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. King (for Hon. Mr. Robertson) presented Bill A, an Act relating to railways.

The bill was read the first time.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND PRIVILEGES

MOTION OF APPOINTMENT

Hon. Mr. King (for Hon. Mr. Robertson) with leave of the Senate moved:

That all the senators present during this session be appointed a committee to consider the orders and customs of the Senate and privileges of parliament, and that the said committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

The motion was agreed to.