

determine the role of government in both the public and private sectors of transportation, the most rational use of available capital resources, and the most appropriate means of balancing existing regulation and direct government intervention. While the cooperation of all parties will be sought, these problems are of a scale that they require Federal Government coordination. This work will lead to the implementation over the next several years, at a rate matched to the Government's overall financial ability, of a program of changes designed to produce a modern, safe, efficient and coordinated transportation system.

There are a number of new initiatives that the Government is prepared to undertake immediately designed to improve transportation services in Canada which will not in any way prejudice the review of basic policy to come:

- a program in cooperation with the railways which will lead to the eventual creation of new Government machinery to ensure the effective management of all ground transport;
- immediate implementation of experimental programs designed to upgrade progressively a number of intercity passenger train services;
- ensuring an adequate supply of rail cars for the future and to resolve rail access problems to all major ports and distribution centres;
- improved transportation to and from remote areas, including further assistance to airports in small municipalities, and a new program to fund airports located in developing areas of the country;
- legislation to provide for the most efficient port system for Canada compatible with local, regional and national interests;
- steps leading to the creation of Canadian-owned ice-breaking cargo vessels for use in the North;
- establishment of an Independent Accident Investigation Board;
- new laws concerning shipping and the coasting trade in Canada;
- ensuring rail costing data will be made available to provincial governments pending consideration of a more comprehensive transportation information act;
- additional steps to strengthen the effectiveness of urban transportation systems and improvement of commuter services compatible with regional and provincial plans for urban development.

[Translation]

The Government believes further steps must be taken to enhance Canada's independence and sense of identity. To this end measures will be proposed to:

- revise the law governing corporations including the introduction of a provision whereby a majority of directors of federally incorporated companies must be Canadian;
- provide for Government intervention in cases where a Canadian company may be prevented from fulfilling export orders by its foreign ownership;
- enhance Canadian processing of the country's natural resources which are exported, involving consultations with the provinces and negotiations with other countries;
- ensure Canadian technological innovation is encouraged and available for the benefit of Canadian industry;
- ensure ownership of fishing vessel licenses is retained by Canadians;
- produce a new Citizenship Act;
- confirm O Canada! as our national anthem;
- restructure federally supported granting councils which provide money for university research in the humanities and social sciences as well as the natural sciences;
- establish an integrated regulatory body for telecommunications;
- establish a Joint Committee of the House and Senate to consider questions relating to the future of the National Capital Region;
- preserve the national heritage by providing incentives for the purchase by Canadian institutions of works of art which might otherwise be exported; and

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- bring assistance to Canadian cultural enterprises by extending the provisions of the Foreign Investment Review Act; by promoting the sale of Canadian books and magazines; and by opening discussions with provincial governments about ways to increase the exposure of Canadian films in commercial theatres in Canada.

[English]

The health of Canadians will be a priority for the Government, with emphasis being placed on the prevention of illness, which includes raising the level of physical fitness of Canadians. A series of major athletic events including the Canada Winter Games in 1975, the Olympic Games in 1976, the Canada Summer Games in 1977 and the Commonwealth Games in 1978, should stimulate all Canadians, and particularly youth, to higher levels of participation and achievement in this area.

The federal-provincial Social Security Review is continuing on an urgent basis. Studies on alternative approaches to the reform of the income security system are expected to be sufficiently advanced to enable federal and provincial ministers to agree upon a preferred approach at an early date. Similarly it is anticipated that proposals for the reform of social services will have been agreed upon shortly.

Stemming the despoilation of our planet and returning our water, air, and land to a more natural state are urgent and challenging goals. Legislative measures toward these goals will include:

- greater protection from contaminating substances in the interests of human health and ecological stability; and
- curtailment of ocean dumping through international agreement.

The Government is also determined to continue its program of extending equality before the law to all Canadians. To this end wide-ranging legislation will be introduced to guarantee the equal status of women in areas within the Federal Government's jurisdiction. In this respect the Government is planning a substantial program of activities to mark International Women's Year in 1975.

Other measures related to equality before the law include:

- human rights legislation;
- substantial amendments to the Criminal Code;
- legislation to provide for royalty rates for oil and gas on Indian reserves comparable to those charged by oil-producing provinces;
- amendments so that the Supreme Court can deal more expeditiously with cases which come before it and to remove the right of appeal based solely on financial considerations.

There has been a rapid expansion in the numbers of people seeking to come to Canada as immigrants, as students, and as temporary workers. A Green Paper will be published shortly which will form the basis for public and federal-provincial discussion.

The volume of public business before Parliament increases with each passing year and this Session will not be an exception. The view is widely shared within and without Parliament that the rules and procedures of the House of Commons should be adapted to enable Members on all sides—supporting and opposing the Government—to discharge their growing responsibilities more effectively. The Government will seek, as a matter of urgency, support on a non-partisan basis for the necessary reforms of Parliamentary rules and for measures to be laid before you dealing with:

- redistribution of seats in the House of Commons;
- broadcasting the proceedings of the House; and
- possible conflicts of interest of Members of the House of Commons and the Senate.

Amendments will be proposed to the Public Service Staff Relations Act.

You will be asked to consider other legislative proposals.

Members of the House of Commons,

The Government intends to present a budget early in this Session.

You will be asked to appropriate the funds required to carry on the services and expenditures authorized by Parliament.

Honourable Members of the Senate,

Members of the House of Commons,

May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.