

The Government will undertake discussions with the government of British Columbia and with the United States, aimed at securing action on the development of the Columbia River.

A new Department of Agriculture Act will be placed before you, to provide for two Ministers in order that the needs of agriculture in both eastern and western Canada may receive closer attention. My Ministers will institute new programmes to make farming as a whole more stable and more prosperous. They will strive to expand markets for Canadian farm products both at home and abroad, with special attention to dairy products.

The Government is initiating consultation with the Provinces to work out a programme for national fishery development. My Ministers intend to secure the establishment of a twelve-mile limit for the use of the Canadian fisheries, taking proper account of treaty and historic rights.

You will be asked to continue the existing payments to the railways, pending the approval of long-term measures concerning transportation. You will be asked to provide additional assistance for the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway.

My Ministers have undertaken to establish a comprehensive system of contributory pensions. The new pensions will be co-ordinated with the existing provisions for old-age security, for the purpose of enabling all Canadians to retire in security and with dignity. While the arrangements required for this great advance in the social security of our people are necessarily complex, the legislation submitted to you will be designed to make the new pension plan operative as soon as possible.

Legislation on unemployment insurance is under consideration and in the meantime you will be asked to ensure that the fund is sustained to meet the claims on it.

The redistribution of electoral districts is overdue. You will be asked to authorize the establishment of a Commission to undertake this important task.

A change in the Citizenship Act will be proposed to ensure full equality of rights for all Canadian citizens wherever they were born. Immigration policy will be reviewed.

*Members of the House of Commons,*

You will be asked to appropriate the funds required for the services and payments authorized by Parliament.

You will be invited to establish a special Committee of the House to examine defence problems.

It will be proposed that the Standing Committee on Privileges and Elections review the Canada Elections Act.

You will be asked to agree to the establishment of a Committee on Procedure, over which the Speaker will preside, with the aim of strengthening Parliament and making it more effective.

*Honourable Members of the Senate,*

*Members of the House of Commons,*

In addition to the measures already specified, you will be asked to consider other legislative proposals.

May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.