

Prorogation of Parliament

In Her Majesty's name the Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Administrator doth assent to these bills.

Then the Speaker of the House of Commons addressed the Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Administrator as follows:

May it please Your Honour:

The Commons of Canada have voted supplies required to enable the government to defray certain expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Commons I present to Your Honour the following bill:

An act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1961.

To which bill I humbly request Your Honour's assent.

To this bill the Clerk of the Senate, by command of the Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Administrator, did thereupon say:

In Her Majesty's name, the Deputy of His Excellency the Administrator thanks her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this bill.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

After which the Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Administrator was pleased to close the third session of the twenty fourth parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The third session of this parliament has been an unusually significant and useful one for Canadians. As you return to your homes I thank you for your work on behalf of the people of Canada.

Relations between nations of the world continue to cause concern. Several incidents have heightened tensions and aroused anxiety. Despite the sombre outlook, however, my government continues to hope that reason may yet prevail in the Soviet world to the end that the differences between nations can be resolved. This will require energy, patience, strength and understanding. Canadians remain convinced that nothing must be left undone to assure real peace for our people and all men everywhere.

In the meantime, a responsible nation can do no other than contribute its part to the defensive strength of the free world. Canada remains under an obligation to provide forces for the defence of North America, to contribute to the North Atlantic alliance and in support of the United Nations. You have made the necessary provision to meet these commitments. In the past few days you have approved the sending of a Canadian contingent of signalling and logistic personnel to be a part of the United Nations operations in the Congo.

The prime ministers of the commonwealth met together in London during May and reviewed the major international problems of the day and various questions of constitutional development within the commonwealth.

You have continued, at the increased level authorized last year, Canada's contribution to the Colombo plan. You have also voted assistance for a program of aid to newly emerging nations in Africa, as well as further funds for the aid of the West Indies federation. An appropriation for the first year of operations of the commonwealth scholarship plan has been approved.

Canada's economic position in 1960 generally has remained good but the problems of employment in

Canada, as in the United States, remain a cause for concern. You have authorized an expanded municipal winter works program for 1960-61. You have made increased provision for the training of unemployed persons in co-operation with the provinces. These measures, together with the steps taken to increase financing for housing construction and home improvement will provide added employment in the forthcoming winter.

Agriculture in all its aspects has continued to receive the close attention of parliament and the government. Early in the session you enacted measures to help meet problems arising from unseasonable weather in the prairie provinces which interrupted the harvesting of last year's grain crops. You have also taken concrete steps to provide assistance to the agricultural economy of western Canada.

A measure of great significance that you have enacted in this session has been the act for the recognition and protection of fundamental human rights. At a time when the enemies of freedom everywhere mock the words of freedom you have set forth for all the world to see the declaration of Canadians that the dignity of the human personality shall be preserved in Canada in equality before the law without discrimination.

You have approved a measure to give Indians the right and privilege of the franchise in federal elections on a basis of equality with their fellow Canadians, but without any sacrifice of their traditional rights.

The Canada Elections Act has been revised.

You have approved an address to Her Majesty requesting the submission to the parliament of the United Kingdom for an amendment of the British North America Act to establish a retirement age of seventy five for judges of superior courts and you have made consequential amendments to the Judges Act.

A conference with provincial representatives has been arranged for the autumn to seek agreement on the means by which the constitution of Canada can be amended in Canada in matters affecting federal and provincial jurisdictions.

You have amended the Federal-Provincial Tax-Sharing Arrangements Act to provide for the extension for the remainder of the period covered by the act of the increase in the share of the revenue from the personal income tax previously allocated to the provinces. Alternative arrangements have been approved in respect of the making of grants to universities in all parts of Canada.

In preparation for the revision of the financial arrangements with the provinces which expire in March 1962, a dominion-provincial conference was held in the last week of July. The conference will resume its discussions in October.

Important amendments have been made to the Combines Investigation Act and related provisions of the Criminal Code which will give protection to the small businessmen of Canada.

The Public Service Superannuation Act has been amended to improve it in several respects. A revision of the Civil Service Act has been placed before you for consideration in advance of action at your next session.

Legislation has been passed to provide for the establishment of a Department of Forestry to have responsibility for all matters relating to the forest resources of Canada over which the parliament of Canada has jurisdiction.

You have extended the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act for a further period of three years.

The Trans-Canada Highway Act has been amended to extend for three years the period during which payments may be made to the provinces for construction under the act.

You have approved measures which will enable for the first time the payment of pensions under