

proved access to available jobs, and employers with improved access to Canada's manpower. These steps will relate employment policy, immigration policy and the activities of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. The Government will be working together with the provinces in developing a community employment policy in a social security context for those Canadians who have particular and continuing difficulty in getting and keeping employment. Amendments will be introduced to the Unemployment Insurance Act as a part of a comprehensive review of the plan undertaken in the light of the experience of the last few years.

In the domain of social policy the Government is playing a vital role to achieve a more balanced pattern of urban growth and to increase the quality of life in our cities in co-operation with the provinces and municipalities. Improved means of public transportation are indispensable to the achievement of these urban goals. Measures will be introduced to establish a National Urban Transportation Development Corporation to co-ordinate and market the development of required new technology in this field. You will be asked to consider measures to assist provinces and cities in the relocation of railway lines and terminals and in the redevelopment of these areas for purposes that will enhance the environment of many of our cities and towns.

Provision of adequate shelter at reasonable prices in a satisfactory neighbourhood environment has been a continuing concern of the Government, and levels of funding to meet this objective are being reviewed. Substantial assistance to rural and native housing programs will also be proposed. The sewage assistance program will be revised to make it more effective as a means to increase the supply of serviced land. The Government will introduce measures to increase the protection available to consumers in the housing market.

The Government has taken many measures to improve the status of women in Canada since the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. Amendments to the statutes of Canada will be placed before you for the purpose of providing equal treatment for women. The legislation to be introduced creating a Federal Commission on Human Rights and Interests will include provisions to protect women from discriminatory practices. Regulations governing government employees will be amended to remove all possible inequities based on sex. Crown corporations will be asked to undertake positive action to encourage the assignment and advancement of more women into responsible positions within their administration. The Government's objective is to create a society free from discrimination.

The federal and provincial governments have agreed that the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans should be further amended to provide for increases, beyond 1975, in the levels of income upon which contributions may be made, and in the pensions which will be paid. Legislation will be introduced to remove the earnings test now

required for people aged 65 to 69 from the Canada Pension Plan. Finally, federal and provincial ministers have agreed that the provisions which now accord differential treatment to men and women under the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans should be removed.

You will be asked to consider other legislative proposals.

*Members of the House of Commons,*

The Government intends to present a budget 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.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Senator Langlois presented to the Senate a Bill S-1, intituled: "An Act relating to Railways".

The Bill was read the first time.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that a copy of the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General had been left in her hands.

The Speech was read by the Honourable the Speaker.

The Honourable Senator Langlois moved, seconded by the Honourable Senator Flynn, P.C.:

That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General, delivered this day from the Throne to the two houses of Parliament, be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

The question being put on the motion, it was—  
Resolved in the affirmative.