

Amendments to the Pension Act and to the War Veterans Allowance Act have been passed, including provision for substantial increases in pensions and allowances payable to veterans or their dependants.

A measure of potential significance that you have enacted in this session has been the Fitness and Amateur Sport Act, which authorizes the establishment of a National Advisory Council on Fitness and Amateur Sport and the granting of financial assistance to activities that will promote the fitness of Canadians.

You have enacted a measure to revise the Civil Service Act.

Measures have been passed to improve the law and arrangements for the control of narcotics and of barbiturates. The Penitentiaries Act has been revised to give effect to my Government's policies of correctional reform. Important amendments have been made to the Criminal Code on the subject of murder and the treatment of sex offenders.

To provide for broader representation on the board of directors of the Canadian National Railways, you have enacted legislation to increase the number of its directors.

Amendments to the Canada Shipping Act have been approved.

You have passed the Canadian National Railways Financing and Guarantee Act.

You have authorized extension of the operation of the Freight Rates Reduction Act to April 30, 1962, and approved a measure to avert a nationwide suspension of railway operations last winter and the disruption of the national economy that would otherwise have ensued.

The National Centennial Act has been passed, giving authority for the establishment of a National Centennial Administration and for other arrangements designed to ensure that the observance of the Centennial of the Confederation of Canada suitably accords with the greatness of the occasion.

The signing of an Estate Tax Convention with the United States has been approved.

A number of less noteworthy amendments were made to various statutes.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provision you have made for the essential public services and payments for the current fiscal year.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence continue to bless, protect and guide our nation.