

*Prorogation of Parliament*

A number of further steps were taken in the government's national development program. A treaty was signed with the United States on the international aspects of the proposed co-operative development of the Columbia river, and the federal government has offered, subject to the approval of parliament, to share equally with the province of British Columbia in the cost of the large water storage projects involved. Agreements have also been signed and appropriations made for flood control and conservation projects in the metropolitan Toronto and surrounding area and on the upper Thames river in southwestern Ontario. Legislation has been passed to approve a Canadian National Railway line to the new mining area near Mattagami lake in northwestern Quebec. In addition you have authorized the construction of a railway line from northern Alberta to Great Slave lake which constitutes another important step in the development of the Canadian north.

To accelerate the modernization of the Customs Tariff of Canada, you have enlarged the tariff board and authorized it to sit in two panels, and you have made certain revisions in the Customs Tariff.

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 dependents.

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 subjects 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.

This concluded the fourth session of the twenty fourth parliament.