

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

the importance to Canada of our Pacific trade. The growth in this trade and in particular the large new coal contracts with Japan require the development of such enterprises as the Roberts Bank ocean shipping terminal on which the federal government will spend \$6 million to develop the waterfront installation while the provincial government will develop supporting facilities. Also associated with this development of Vancouver as the Pacific metropolis of our country is the intensive renovation by the federal government at a cost of \$32 million of the Vancouver international airport which will improve our access to the Far East and also enhance our national air transportation networks.

● (5:20 p.m.)

The federal government has also recognized the national importance of the Fraser river and the national consequences of the severe floods which have taken place and could occur on that river. Through a joint program of \$40 million, the federal government will provide \$18 million with the remainder being provided in British Columbia to carry out a major diking and flood control program on the Fraser.

The long strike of the grain handlers at the lakehead has now been settled, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Mackasey), and western grain will again be moving in substantial volume through the lakehead to the millers and consumers in Canada and abroad.

However, the western wheat economy still has its problems with which we are very much concerned. The world wheat market is currently characterized by an excess of supplies over effective demand. Canadian wheat production from the current crop cannot be accurately estimated. Weather conditions have recently shown a marked improvement and the crop will probably be in the range of 550 million to 600 million bushels. Both the government and the wheat board are determined to maintain Canada's share of the world wheat market. The objective is to secure 25 per cent or better of the world wheat trade, or 1.3 billion bushels of wheat exports, in the next three years. The government will give the necessary support to the board's selling operations. This will include extension of credit arrangements and continuation of a high level of wheat and flour content in Canada's food aid program.

[Mr. Trudeau.]

The Economic Council of Canada has dealt in its last review with the question of productivity in agriculture, including particularly the yield per acre achieved by Canadian wheat growers. We have just announced that preparations are under way for setting up a national grains council in order to mobilize more effectively the energies, knowledge and efforts of all segments of the grain industry to assist in every way in achieving our objectives with respect to the grain trade.

As hon. members are aware, the international grains arrangement entered into force on July 1. The first months of its operation have revealed certain problems in the pricing area. A meeting of major wheat exporters opens tomorrow in Canberra where governments particularly involved will have an opportunity to consider the whole question of wheat pricing. The Canadian delegation is headed by the deputy minister of trade and commerce and includes the chief commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board. In early October there will be a meeting of the prices review committee of the International Wheat Council.

The Canadian government will be making every effort to see that these international arrangements work successfully and that we attain our over-all export targets while being prepared, at the same time, for more fundamental re-examination of the wheat economy. One specific step which the government is taking is to introduce legislation to amend the Prairie Grain Advance Payments Act. This will make it possible to double the advance payment on farm stored grains.

[Translation]

There is another even more important priority with which the government and parliament will have to deal during the next few years, Mr. Speaker: the extension and the protection of the linguistic rights of all Canadians. Noticeable progress has been made these past months in the extension of linguistic rights in most parts of the country. One of the successes of the constitutional conference last February was the agreement reached by all participants to declare that the rights of French-speaking Canadians in the other provinces should, in all justice, be the same as those of English-speaking Canadians in the province of Quebec. The same federal-provincial conference also approved the appointment of a special committee of representatives of the federal and provincial governments to study the report of the royal commission on bilingualism and biculturalism