

Internal Economy Commission

trade, to strengthen our payments balance with other countries, and to ensure increasingly high confidence in our economy and currency.

Steady work is the basic need on which men and women depend for the well-being of themselves and their families. Unemployment, on the serious scale of recent years, is therefore the most urgent of our domestic problems. To provide the many new jobs that are needed every year, we must create new industries. The fiscal and monetary policies of the government will give priority to the encouragement of soundly based industrial expansion.

Provision will be made to assist labour and management to make manpower adjustments required by technological and other industrial changes. The special assistance for technical training will be extended in co-operation with the provinces.

Other measures will be put before you to assist in increasing production and employment in Canada.

You will be asked to provide for the early establishment of a department of industry, which will foster industrial expansion and provide a central point to which industry can look for consultation, stimulus and assistance. It will be proposed that, within the new department, there will be established an area development agency. This agency will work with the provincial governments and other organizations to co-ordinate programs for parts of the country where, because of chronic unemployment, a special thrust for development is needed.

Amendments to the Atlantic Development Board Act will be proposed, to strengthen the board and to provide for a capital assistance fund through which it can promote basic projects in the Atlantic region.

You will be asked to establish a municipal development and loan board, through which municipalities may obtain, with the approval of the provinces, loans and grants to carry out projects which will increase employment and improve services. Amendments to the National Housing Act will also be proposed.

A measure will be placed before you to establish a Canada development corporation, by means of which Canadians can more readily direct their savings to the building of new Canadian industries and to increasing the Canadian ownership of existing industries, which is one of the important objectives of the government.

A measure will be placed before you to establish an economic council of Canada, in order to assist the government, industry and labour to develop means of ensuring in Canada the highest possible levels of employment, of efficient production, and of sustained growth for our economy.

My ministers will pursue constructive policies for the development of Canada's great resources for the benefit of Canadians.

The government will undertake discussions with the government of British Columbia and with the United States, aimed at securing action on the development of the Columbia river.

A new Department of Agriculture act will be placed before you, to provide for two ministers in order that the needs of agriculture in both eastern and western Canada may receive closer attention. My ministers will institute new programs to make farming as a whole more stable and more prosperous. They will strive to expand markets for Canadian farm products both at home and abroad, with special attention to dairy products.

The government is initiating consultation with the provinces to work out a program for national fishery development. My ministers intend to secure the establishment of a twelve mile limit for the use of the Canadian fisheries, taking proper account of treaty and historic rights.

You will be asked to continue the existing payments to the railways, pending the approval of long-term measures concerning transportation. You will be asked to provide additional assistance for the completion of the trans-Canada highway.

My ministers have undertaken to establish a comprehensive system of contributory pensions. The new pensions will be co-ordinated with the existing provisions for old-age security, for the purpose of enabling all Canadians to retire in security and with dignity. While the arrangements required for this great advance in the social security of our people are necessarily complex, the legislation submitted to you will be designed to make the new pension plan operative as soon as possible.

Legislation on unemployment insurance is under consideration and in the meantime you will be asked to ensure that the fund is sustained to meet the claims on it.

The redistribution of electoral districts is overdue. You will be asked to authorize the establishment of a commission to undertake this important task.

A change in the Citizenship Act will be proposed to ensure full equality of rights for all Canadian citizens wherever they were born. Immigration policy will be reviewed.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to appropriate the funds required for the services and payments authorized by parliament.

You will be invited to establish a special committee of the house to examine defence problems.

It will be proposed that the standing committee on privileges and elections review the Canada Elections Act.

You will be asked to agree to the establishment of a committee on procedure, over which the Speaker will preside, with the aim of strengthening parliament and making it more effective.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

In addition to the measures already specified, you will be asked to consider other legislative proposals.

May divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister) moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Administrator, delivered this day from the throne to the two houses of parliament, be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the house.

Motion agreed to.

INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister) presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an order in council appointing the Hon. Lionel Chevrier, Minister of Justice, the Hon. J. W. Pickersgill, Secretary of State, the Hon. W. L. Gordon, Minister of Finance, and the Hon. Judy LaMarsh, Minister of National Health and Welfare, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 143 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952, intituled: An Act respecting the House of Commons.