

As a result of legislation passed at the last session of Parliament, new agreements with respect to old age pensions have been completed with nine of the provinces, and increased pensions have now been made available to the aged and the blind in those provinces. The completion of a similar agreement with the Province of Newfoundland awaits the enactment of the required provincial legislation.

The continued co-operation of the provinces in the implementation of the national health programme has resulted in further progress being made towards the desired objective of improved health facilities and services for the people in all parts of Canada.

While more housing units are being built this year than ever before, the demand for housing continues. Following discussions with the governments of the provinces your approval will be sought for legislation to broaden the scope of the National Housing Act.

A bill to provide for the continuance of functions now vested in the Department of Reconstruction and Supply, including the ministerial responsibility for the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will be placed before you for your approval.

You will also be asked to approve a measure to enable the government to assist in the provision of a transcontinental highway.

The government has concluded new air agreements with the United Kingdom and the United States. The agreements provide new routes for our international air services to the United States and to the Orient, and additional traffic stops in United States and United Kingdom territory for our present international services on the North Atlantic, to the Caribbean and to the South Pacific.

Measures demanding your consideration will include a Bill respecting a National Trade Mark and True Labelling; a Bill respecting Forest Conservation; a Bill to incorporate the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation; a Bill respecting assistance to the shipbuilding industry and merchant shipping; a Bill to extend the life of the Export and Import Permits Act; and bills to amend the Exchequer Court Act, the Industrial Development Bank Act, the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act, the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, the Customs Act, and the Veterans' Land Act of 1942.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make provision for the public service for the current fiscal year. The budget resolutions introduced at the Last Session of Parliament will be submitted for your approval and the enactment of the appropriate legislation.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I pray that Divine Providence may bless your deliberations.

The House of Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

RAILWAY BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Copp (for Hon. Mr. Robertson) presented Bill A, an Act relating to railways.

The bill was read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION

On motion of Hon. Mr. Copp (for Hon. Mr. Robertson), it was ordered that the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration on Tuesday next.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND PRIVILEGES

MOTION

Hon. Mr. Copp (for Hon. Mr. Robertson) moved:

That all the senators present during the session be appointed a committee to consider the orders and customs of the Senate and privileges of Parliament, and that the said committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

The motion was agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until Tuesday, September 20, at 3 p.m.