

*Speech from the Throne*

Canada Water Act which will provide a framework for the improvement and implementation of Canadian water policy.

At the same time, the search for new resources hastens the opening of the North. Substantial progress has been made in recent years in the government of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon, and the government intends to undertake new incentives for industry and regional economic planning intended to strengthen the economy of the North.

The encouragement of scientific and intellectual endeavour, and the development of natural resources, will be of no great benefit to Canadian society in its second century of Confederation unless a concerted effort is made to bring about a better relationship between the individual and his government. The government therefore attaches great importance to administrative and law reform so as to assure the citizen an understanding and sense of identification with what is going on, the better to assure his support of and participation in the social institutions of our country. You will be asked to examine legal procedures and administration, not only with a view to their efficiency, but also as regards their simplicity and efficacy in so far as the individual citizen is concerned. Canada must set itself the task of developing a society in which every citizen can become an informed and real participant and plan a rôle to the measure of his wishes and abilities.

The Standing Committee of the House on Privileges and Elections will be asked to continue its study of the Report from the Committee on Election Expenses. When this study has been completed, the government will put forward proposals for your consideration.

You will be asked to consider reforms in our laws governing divorce. The government will also put forward a proposal concerning capital punishment. In all of these matters where decisions depend so much on personal judgement and belief, careful consideration will be given to procedures for handling them in Parliament. Early action will also be taken to seek other amendments to the Criminal Code.

In the highly complex society of today, the interests of the consumer must be taken fully into account in the formulation of government policy. It is abundantly clear that in the whole area of matters affecting the investor and the consumer, the federal government has special obligations arising out of its general responsibility for the economic well-being of the nation as a whole.

The rights of the consumer can be advanced through corporate and individual responsibility but they also impose an obligation on governments at all levels. At this Session government measures recommended for the promotion of consumer interests will include the designation of a department of corporate and consumer affairs. Within this department there will be created an organization responsible for developing new policies and coordinating programs undertaken within the federal government to assist the consumer and protect the small investor. It will also maintain liaison with the provinces in these fields.

The government also attaches great importance to the encouragement of more efficient allocation of capital resources and to the creation of a situation in which any Canadian can invest in companies

operating in Canada on the basis of comprehensive and accurate information. To this end, you will be asked to approve amendments to the Canada Corporations Act. They will ensure that federally incorporated companies are obliged to respect modern and high standards of financial disclosure and that their affairs are conducted in a way which will encourage a favourable investment climate.

Related to this is the improvement of the efficiency and stability of financial markets and institutions. Important changes were brought about in the last Session of Parliament with respect to banking legislation and the control of other financial institutions. The objective of the government is to encourage development of efficient financial institutions, with full regard for the public interest including the provision of adequate safeguards for depositors and investors. The government is prepared to exercise its responsibility in fields where it has jurisdiction. In these fields as well as in areas where jurisdiction is divided, it will seek to cooperate with all provincial governments.

Another matter of fundamental importance in our highly industrialized society is safety. The government proposes to review the whole area of its jurisdiction with respect to the setting and enforcement of safety standards in all the areas where they are required if the day-to-day life of the average citizen is to be adequately safeguarded.

As we observe this year the beginning of a new century of Confederation, we who find ourselves in positions of authority must always remember that it is our responsibility and our opportunity to serve the needs and aspirations of the Canadian people. Ours is a proud past. Together we in Canada have a future as promising as that of any other country in the world. But, above all, we are a people of the present. It is well that in giving thought to the goals of the second century of Confederation, we be aware that, as our success and promise of today rest on the actions of the past, so what we have tomorrow will depend on what we do today.

*Members of the House of Commons,*

The legislative program that the government proposes is large, and many of the issues it contains are complex. This has consistently been the case in recent years. It is a natural result of the growth and development of our country, the involvement of government in many matters, and the increasing technicality of modern society and the methods of its regulation. Parliament today requires virtually the full-time attention of its members, and this has been appropriately recognized. Likewise, you have recognized that the rules and methods of parliamentary government must be revised. In the last Session you established a Committee on the Rules of the House which made valuable progress in this regard. In this Session you will be asked to continue and expand that Committee's work. Canada in embarking upon its second century of federal government, must provide its Parliament with every facility to ensure that efficiency and thoroughness of deliberation which, in the consideration of every item of public business, is alone the sure protection of the liberty and well-being of our people.

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