

areas for purposes that will enhance the environment of many of our cities and towns.

Provision of adequate shelter at reasonable prices in a satisfactory neighbourhood environment has been a continuing concern of the Government, and levels of funding to meet this objective are being reviewed. Substantial assistance to rural and native housing programs will also be proposed. The sewage assistance program will be revised to make it more effective as a means to increase the supply of serviced land. The Government will introduce measures to increase the protection available to consumers in the housing market.

The Government has taken many measures to improve the status of women in Canada since the Report of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. Amendments to the statutes of Canada will be placed before you for the purpose of providing equal treatment for women. The legislation to be introduced creating a Federal Commission on Human Rights and Interests will include provisions to protect women from discriminatory practices. Regulations governing government employees will be amended to remove all possible inequities based on sex. Crown corporations will be asked to undertake positive action to encourage the assignment and advancement of more women into responsible positions within their administration. The Government's objective is to create a society free from discrimination.

The federal and provincial governments have agreed that the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans should be further amended to provide for increases, beyond 1975, in the levels of income upon which contributions may be made, and in the pensions which will be paid. Legislation will be introduced to remove the earnings test now required for people aged 65 to 69 from the Canada Pension Plan. Finally, federal and provincial ministers have agreed that the provisions which now accord differential treatment to men and women under the Canada and Quebec Pension Plans should be removed.

You will be asked to consider other legislative proposals.

Members of the House of Commons,

The Government intends to present a budget in this Session.

You will be asked to appropriate the funds required to carry on the services and expenditures authorized by Parliament.

Honourable Members of the Senate,

Members of the House of Commons,

May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.

● (1140)

The House of Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

RAILWAYS BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Leopold Langlois presented Bill S-1, relating to railways.

Bill read first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONSIDERATION NEXT SITTING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency has caused to be placed in my hands a copy of his Speech delivered this day from the Throne to the two Houses of Parliament. It is as follows:

Hon. Senators: Dispense.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall the Speech be taken into consideration?

Hon. Leopold Langlois moved, seconded by Hon. Jacques Flynn:

That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General delivered this day from the Throne to the two Houses of Parliament be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND CUSTOMS

APPOINTMENT

Hon. Leopold Langlois moved, seconded by Hon. Sidney L. Buckwold:

That all the senators present during this 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.

Motion agreed to.