

SECOND SESSION, TWENTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE: The Second Session of the Twenty-First Parliament opened on February 16. The portion of the Speech from the Throne, read by the Governor General, Viscount Alexander, which dealt with international affairs and with impending legislation, was as follows:

"In the international sphere, our country continues to give full support to the Charter of the United Nations. A Canadian delegation is now attending a session of the Economic and Social Council to which Canada was elected at the last session of the General Assembly.

"The recent conference in Ceylon of the Foreign Ministers of the nations of the Commonwealth demonstrated that there is a continuing and substantial community of outlook among the nations of the Commonwealth both in the East and the West in their approach to current problems of foreign affairs.

"The measures for the preservation of peace and the restoration and maintenance of prosperity contemplated by the North Atlantic Treaty are being devised and applied as expeditiously as circumstances permit. The wholehearted co-operation of all the signatories to the Treaty is encouraging evidence of their determination to deter aggression by a combination of actual and potential strength calculated to remove the possibility of successful aggression.

"The cold war nevertheless still continues and imposes on all the free nations heavy burdens for the provision of defence forces and modern armaments. Preparedness to meet any sudden onslaught is essential and the means must be provided. But the free nations also face a test of endurance, and our staying power could be endangered by attempting to achieve complete preparedness at the expense of our adaptability to new developments in weapons and techniques of warfare or the efficiency of our social and industrial systems....

"The measure to consolidate existing legislation respecting our defence forces and to provide for a purely Canadian disciplinary code to be made applicable to all the forces will be re-introduced....

"Although a high proportion of persons temporarily unemployed are actually in receipt of Unemployment Insurance benefits, you will be asked to give consideration to a Bill to widen the scope and extend the benefits of Unemployment Insurance.

"Circumstances outside Canada have been responsible for some downward adjustments in the price of farm products. Measures have already been taken to reduce the impact of these adjustments. In order to provide authority for continuing price support to that end for the primary products of our farms and fisheries, you will be asked to amend the Agricultural Products Act, the Agricultural Prices Support Act and the Fisheries Prices

Support Act.

"Within the past year, the International Wheat Agreement has been brought into operation. In view of Canada's participation in that Agreement and the recent decision to market course grains through the Canadian Wheat Board, you will also be asked to consider a measure to renew the existing powers of the Board....

"Canadian representatives continue to participate actively in co-ordinated international efforts to bring about improvement in the underlying conditions of world trade. The Government is also pursuing policies designed to develop new markets for our products and to assist overseas customers to increase Canadian earnings. My Ministers will continue their efforts to secure reductions in trade barriers. To this end preparations are actively under way for further multilateral trade negotiations later in the present year.

"While prevailing exchange difficulties will require continued readjustments, we have reason to expect that our export trade as a whole will remain at a high level during the present year.

"You will be asked to give consideration to the legislation required to implement the policy concerning the control and the orderly decontrol of rents announced by the Government during your last session.

"A measure will be introduced to amend the Canada Shipping Act to incorporate changes suggested by the Safety of Life at Sea Convention of 1948 and to define duties of Canadian Consuls and conditions of registration in Canada of Canadian ships.

"You will be asked to consider a Bill for the revision of the Indian Act.

"A Bill will be submitted to substitute a uniform and systematic procedure for existing legislation concerning publication and tabling in Parliament of regulations and orders made by the Governor in Council or Ministers or other agents of the Crown in the exercise of powers conferred by statute.

"Bills will be introduced to implement the policies announced at the last session respecting prize money; the inclusion of veterans of British and allied forces within the scope of the War Veterans Allowance Act; and grants to municipalities in which there is an exceptional concentration of federal property.

"Other measures requiring your consideration will include Bills to amend the Militia Pension Act; the Criminal Code; the Government Annuities Act; the Post Office Act; the Consolidated Revenue and Audit Act; the Currency Act; the Trust Companies Act; the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, 1932; the Foreign Insurance Companies Act, 1932; the Customs Act; the Maritime Marshland Rehabilitation Act; and the Northwest Territories Power Commission Act."