

69701—SPEECH FROM THE THRONE— Gal. 2

A Standing Committee representative of the Agriculture Departments of Canada and the United States to coordinate the efforts of the two countries in the production of food for the United Nations has been agreed to.

The immediate object of the United Nations is the defeat of the Axis powers. The United Nations also aim at rendering aggression impossible in the future. Their governments, in addition to planning jointly for the prosecution of the war, have already entered into consultation regarding post-war problems. Achievement of their aims requires the establishment of conditions under which all peoples may enjoy a sense of security and of equality of opportunity.

In Canada, a considerable measure of Social Security has already been provided through federal enactments establishing annuities, old age and other pensions, and unemployment insurance, and through provincial enactments related to accidents, sickness and hospitalization, widows and mothers' pensions and to maternity benefits.

There is, however, no insurance for funeral expenses by either Provincial or Federal authorities.

There is, however, no approach to a nation-wide plan of social security.

My Ministers believe that a comprehensive national social insurance scheme should be worked out at once, which will constitute a charter of social security for the whole of Canada. Such a scheme, by insuring everyone for the things which everyone needs, would provide insurance against all major economic and social hazards. It is in the general interest that freedom from fear and from want should be the assured possession of all.

The Government accordingly proposes to recommend at the earliest convenient date the appointment of a Select Committee to examine and report on the most practicable measures of Social Insurance and the steps which will be required to secure their adoption as a national plan. Among matters which will be referred to this Committee for study and consideration will be certain proposals with respect to the immediate establishment of a national system of Health Insurance.

With your approval, the Select Committee on Reconstruction and Re-Establishment, appointed at the last session, will be reconstituted.

In accordance with the provisions of the British North America Act you will be invited to consider a Bill for the redistribution of representation in the House of Commons.

A Bill will be introduced to make provision for the appointment of Parliamentary Assistants to those of my Ministers whose duties have become particularly onerous because of the demands of war.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

You will be asked to vote the necessary grants to enable our country to make its utmost contribution to the winning of the war.

Among the financial proposals to which your attention will be invited at the earliest convenient date will be one for the further development of the method of tax collection at the source, so as to provide for payment of the personal income tax in the year in which income is received.