

Under the provisions of a major extension of the National Housing Act, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has been authorized to insure loans made by approved lenders and make direct loans to persons who intend to purchase, improve and occupy existing housing. To assist provinces and municipalities in continuing their efforts to combat soil and water pollution, the period of forgiveness for loans made on sewage treatment projects has been extended three years to March 1970. Mortgage loans have also been made available for the provision of student housing at vocational and training schools, training hospitals and schools for special groups of handicapped people.

In order to provide young people with increased opportunities for service to the community, you have approved a measure to establish the Company of Young Canadians.

In the last Session of Parliament before the day marking the Centennial of Confederation, it was appropriate that attention should be given to some of the symbolic and non-material aspects of our nationhood. The achievement that began with the adoption of our national flag was carried forward with the approval of "O Canada" as our national anthem. My government also announced the approval by Her Majesty the Queen of the Order of Canada as a means of recognizing service of special quality and merit to our country.

Looking to another aspect of the quality of our national life, my government has established a Royal Commission to inquire into and report upon the status of women in Canada and upon the steps the government might take to ensure for women equal opportunities with men in all aspects of Canadian society.

My government has tabled a White Paper setting forth its views with regard to future broadcasting policy. This statement, together with the report of the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on the subject, will provide the general background for the legislation on broadcasting which is soon to be introduced.

You have enacted a measure to provide for the establishment of a National Arts Centre, which will be the principal centennial project in the National Capital and will have beneficial effects for the performing arts in Canada. You have also passed legislation to establish the Canadian Film Development Corporation which will help to stimulate the film industry in this country.

You have approved a measure establishing rights of appeal to an independent tribunal both by persons ordered to be deported and by Canadians wishing to sponsor the admission of certain relatives to Canada. A White Paper defining the principles of immigration policy has been presented for your consideration.

Many other important items of legislation were approved in this session of Parliament which has been one of the most productive in our history. My government is conscious, however, that the need for legislative change and reform in Canada is greater today, and more constantly demanding, than at any period in our history. The accomplishments of this Session of Parliament must, therefore, be regarded less as a source of satisfaction than as an indication of the pace and scope of change that must be maintained and increased if the needs of the country are to be met.