

*Prorogation*

You have approved the National Transportation Act which will provide a completely new basis for an overall approach to the development of transportation in Canada. This measure defines a national transportation policy suited to modern requirements in this country and provides for the establishment of a national transportation authority to give effect to the policy. It provides for new methods of fixing freight rates and for the rationalization of branch lines. Through these and other provisions, the Act will be of major assistance to the continuing economic growth of the country.

You have enacted legislation authorizing the unification of the Canadian Armed Forces. This makes possible the completion of the reorganization begun in 1964.

You were obliged to give consideration to labour disputes of serious concern to the national interest. My government, deeply aware of the human as well as the economic price of work stoppages, has appointed a Task Force of highly qualified persons to examine, as a matter of urgency, the many aspects of labour-management relations and to make recommendations for their improvement.

You have amended the Fair Wages and Hours of Labour Act so that standards prescribed in the Canada Labour (Standards) Code concerning hours of work and minimum hourly rates of pay will be applicable to Government construction contracts. You have also amended the Code to ensure that longshoremen who work for more than one employer may qualify for general holidays. The Canada Labour (Safety) Code that you have enacted constitutes Canada's first national safety code and is an important addition to the body of labour law applying to industries within federal jurisdiction.

You have adopted a measure to make crop insurance applicable to all phases of agriculture and to make the program more attractive to Canadian farmers. The establishment of the Canadian Dairy Commission represents an important milestone for Canadian agriculture. Measures were also enacted to provide assistance to livestock feeders in Eastern Canada and British Columbia, and to establish a fund for the economic and social development of special rural development areas.

Under the provisions of the Fisheries Development Act, passed during the session, fishery development activities are being intensified in co-operation with the governments of the provinces and with the fishing industry.

My government has continued in its efforts to work for the co-ordination of measures to reduce poverty and increase security in all parts of Canada. In this connection, a measure has been passed providing for guaranteed income supplements for recipients of old age security. You have also enacted legislation introducing the Canada Assistance Plan to provide assistance to persons and families in need.

A measure of particular importance enacted during the past session was the Medical Care Act which provided for the commencement in Canada of a national Medical Care Program. This measure will make a major contribution toward the improvement of the health of the people of Canada and toward the mitigation of domestic financial crises caused by illness.

You have approved legislation authorizing the establishment of a Health Resources Fund to provide financial assistance to the provinces to aid

them in research and in the training of health personnel.

You have passed legislation to encourage the occupational training of adult Canadians by the payment of training allowances and by providing for the federal purchase of training services through the facilities of the provinces and of industry.

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