

In response to suggestions put forward by my Government, a Commonwealth Trade and Economic Conference was held in Montreal last September. This meeting, one of the most important in the history of the Commonwealth, was attended by Ministers representing the self-governing nations of the Commonwealth and the countries now looking forward to obtaining full sovereignty. A large measure of agreement was reached on trade and economic matters. This has led to far-reaching decisions on the part of the United Kingdom and other countries to restore convertibility of their currencies and to remove restrictions on imports.

My Government has taken action to reduce unemployment by expediting national works programmes, by programmes undertaken in cooperation with the Provinces, and by encouraging Canadians generally to undertake constructive activities particularly in the winter season. You will be asked to assist the municipalities of Canada in the financing of work on construction projects which would not otherwise have been undertaken during the winter months.

Certain amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act will be submitted to you.

My Government welcomes the evidence of recovery from the recession and will continue to foster and assist this improvement. They believe that as recovery proceeds there will be increasing need for care to preserve the stability and purchasing power of our currency.

My Government will continue in its economic policies to lay emphasis upon national development. My Ministers believe that by the wise use of the resources with which nature has endowed this country, Canadians can achieve a continually rising standard of living. My Government will therefore foster and encourage the proper development and use of these resources and the growth of efficient industry based upon them. Many projects for national development have already been put in hand; you will be asked to vote the supply necessary to continue these projects and to initiate others.

Additional legislation in the field of agriculture will be recommended. A measure will be laid before you to institute a system of crop insurance in cooperation with such Provinces as so desire. You will also be invited to make a comprehensive review and revision of the legislation concerning farm credit, in order that credit may be more effective in assisting in the development and maintenance of an efficient and prosperous agriculture.

You will be asked to enact a Bill of Rights which will make manifest the intent that fundamental rights and freedoms shall prevail and remain inviolate in all matters within the competence of Parliament.

At the earliest opportunity you will be invited to authorize the establishment of a National Energy Board to ensure, so far as it lies within the jurisdiction of Parliament, that Canada's energy resources are used effectively and prudently to the best advantage of Canadians.

My Ministers have been gratified to see the all-time record in house construction which has been made possible by Government loans under the National Housing Act. They will recommend to you further amendments to that Act to continue this programme and to encourage the flow of private funds into mortgages.

For the purpose of increasing the range and effectiveness of the guarantees provided for financing exports, you will be asked to make certain amendments to the Export Credits Insurance Act.

My Government will place before you certain amendments to the laws respecting trade practices.

You will be asked to consider a bill containing numerous amendments to the Canada Shipping Act.