

to undertake new incentives for industry and regional economic planning intended to strengthen the economy of the North.

The encouragement of scientific and intellectual endeavour, and the development of natural resources, will be of no great benefit to Canadian society in its second century of Confederation unless a concerted effort is made to bring about a better relationship between the individual and his government. The government therefore attaches great importance to administrative and law reform so as to assure the citizen an understanding and sense of identification with what is going on, the better to assure his support of and participation in the social institutions of our country. You will be asked to examine legal procedures and administration, not only with a view to their efficiency, but also as regards their simplicity and efficacy in so far as the individual citizen is concerned. Canada must set itself the task of developing a society in which every citizen can become an informed and real participant and plan a rôle to the measure of his wishes and abilities.

The Standing Committee of the House on Privileges and Elections will be asked to continue its study of the Report from the Committee on Election Expenses. When this study has been completed, the government will put forward proposals for your consideration.

You will be asked to consider reforms in our laws governing divorce. The government will also put forward a proposal concerning capital punishment. In all of these matters where decisions depend so much on personal judgement and belief, careful consideration will be given to procedures for handling them in Parliament. Early action will also be taken to seek other amendments to the Criminal Code.

In the highly complex society of today, the interests of the consumer must be taken fully into account in the formulation of government policy. It is abundantly clear that in the whole area of matters affecting the investor and the consumer, the federal government has special obligations arising out of its general responsibility for the economic well-being of the nation as a whole.

The rights of the consumer can be advanced through corporate and individual responsibility but they also impose an obligation on governments at all levels. At this Session government measures recommended for the promotion of consumer interests will include the designation of a department of corporate and consumer affairs. Within this department there will be created an organization responsible for developing new policies and coordinating programs undertaken within the federal government to assist the consumer and protect the small investor. It will also maintain liaison with the provinces in these fields.

The government also attaches great importance to the encouragement of more efficient allocation of capital resources and to the creation of a situation in which any Canadian can invest in companies operating in Canada on the basis of comprehensive and accurate information. To this end, you will be asked to approve amendments to the Canada Corporations Act. They will ensure that federally incorporated companies are obliged to respect modern and high standards of financial disclosure and that their affairs are conducted in a way which will encourage a favourable investment climate.

Related to this is the improvement of the efficiency and stability of financial markets and institutions. Important changes were brought about in the last Session of Parliament with respect to banking legislation and the control of other financial institutions. The objective of the government is to encourage development of efficient financial institutions, with full regard for the public