

*Prorogation of Parliament**[Translation]*

In both economic and social terms, housing has been of great concern during this session and you have twice amended the National Housing Act and related statutes.

Energy resources are central to the development of the nation. This has led to the enactment of the Petroleum Administration Act and to the creation of Petro Canada.

Agriculture has been of major concern to you during this session. You have enacted a measure to provide for two price wheat and you have passed the Agricultural Stabilization Act and the Western Grain Stabilization Act. You have made important amendments to the Farm Credit Act and to the Canadian Wheat Board Act as well as to several other statutes of great importance to the farmers of this country.

Several measures have been enacted to strengthen our social security system. You have improved the benefits of the Canada Pension Plan and the Old Age Security Act. Amendments to the statute law with regard to superannuation have been enacted. The services of those who fought for our country have been remembered in amendments to the laws relating to veterans' and civilians' war allowances, veterans' and returned soldiers' insurance, and to the compensation for former prisoners of war.

[English]

The institutional framework of Government has been a significant concern in this session. Parliament has enacted statutes to create the office of Secretary to the Cabinet for Federal-Provincial Relations and to amend Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements. Measures have been passed to protect the representation of all provinces in the House of Commons and to improve the representation of the northern territories in Parliament. You accepted your responsibilities by dealing with the financial arrangements for representatives of the Crown, for judges and for legislators. A number of measures relating to the structure of the courts were enacted, including important amendments to the Supreme Court Act. Committees of both Houses considered and made recommendations on the subject of members of parliament and con-

flicts of interest. A special joint committee of both Houses considered and made recommendations on employer-employee relations in the public service. The Standing Joint Committee on Regulations and other Statutory Instruments has not only effectively taken up its responsibilities under the Statutory Instruments Act, but also has embarked on an important study of government policy on the release of information, the conclusions of which are eagerly anticipated. Both Houses have considered procedural reform and, while progress has been made, both are to be encouraged to continue the work in future sessions.

[Translation]

You have made several amendments to the criminal law, including the enactment of a permanent law with regard to the punishment for murder and certain other offences.

Several of the statutes enacted have been designed to protect the equality of men and women in the letter and administration of the law.

During this session, a new Citizenship Act was passed and a measure to regulate the import and export of articles of cultural value was enacted. The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission was created and a measure was enacted to assist the development of Canadian publications and broadcasting.

Almost all of the legislation that was forecast in the Speech from the Throne opening this session on September 30, 1974 has been enacted. This, however, constitutes merely half of the legislation that Parliament has adopted in the session. Parliament has indeed produced a remarkably great amount of legislation. Nonetheless, the demand for even more continues and Parliament has little time to spare in its effort to meet the needs of the nation.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provisions you have made for the service of Canada during the present and the two previous fiscal years.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence continue to bless our country.

This concluded the first session of the thirtieth Parliament.