

- . legislation to ensure the resumed movement of Western grain, if the current dispute has not already been resolved,
- . steps to facilitate grain handling this winter.

Food and housing

In order to help protect those particularly hard hit by inflation...the following measures will be taken or proposed:

- To monitor food prices –
 - . renew the mandate of the Food Prices Review Board until the end of 1975 so that it may continue to report regularly on trends in food prices and analyze the reasons for price changes in specific areas;
- To help home buyers –
 - . additional assistance to buyers of moderately priced housing who have not owned a home before,
 - . ask financial institutions to continue to direct all low down payment high ratio mortgages exclusively to moderately priced housing,
 - . a Registered Home Owners Savings Plan,
 - . a system of warranties which will protect new buyers of National Housing Act financed homes,
 - . better disclosure provisions for the true interest rates of mortgages.

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Help for the elderly

- To help older citizens, the needy and war veterans –
 - . provide for regular increases in the year's maximum pensionable earnings in 1976 and subsequent years,
 - . revise the year's basic exemption,
 - . and eliminate the earnings test on retirement pensions for people aged 65 to 70,
 - . provide for the payment of allowances to the spouses aged 60 to 65 of Old Age Security recipients effective October 1975 and eliminate certain hardships involving Canadians absent from Canada for limited periods of time,
 - . achieve equity as between provinces in the application of the Canada Assistance Plan in respect of the treatment of youthful offenders in other than welfare institutions, and in respect of the care given needy persons in nursing-homes in provinces that have introduced univer-

- sal nursing-home care programs, and
- . further increases in war veterans allowances.

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The Government will introduce legislation to deal with unjustified price increases where such increases are identified. This legislation will be designed to ensure that unacceptable profit levels are not being realized.

You will be asked to approve the imposition of an export charge on crude oil and certain other petroleum products to provide compensation for Canadians who consume imported oil and to regulate the price of Canadian hydrocarbons in interprovincial trade, so that all Canadians pay the same basic price, plus appropriate transportation charges, no matter where they may live.

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Transportation

There are a number of new initiatives that the Government is prepared to undertake immediately designed to improve transportation services in Canada which will not in any way prejudice the review of basic policy to come:

- . a program in co-operation with the railways which will lead to the eventual creation of new Government machinery to ensure the effective management of all ground transport;
- . immediate implementation of experimental programs designed to upgrade progressively a number of intercity passenger train services;
- . ensuring an adequate supply of rail cars for the future and to resolve rail access problems to all major ports and distribution centres;
- . improved transportation to and from remote areas, including further assistance to airports in small municipalities, and a new program to fund airports located in developing areas of the country;
- . legislation to provide for the most efficient port system for Canada compatible with local, regional and national interests;
- . steps leading to the creation of Canadian-owned icebreaking cargo vessels for use in the North;
- . establishment of an Independent Accident Investigation Board;
- . new laws concerning shipping and the

- coasting trade in Canada;
- . ensuring rail costing data will be made available to provincial governments pending consideration of a more comprehensive transportation information act;
- . additional steps to strengthen the effectiveness of urban transportation systems and improvement of commuter services compatible with regional and provincial plans for urban development.

Canada's identity

The Government believes further steps must be taken to enhance Canada's independence and sense of identity. To this end measures will be proposed to:

- . revise the law governing corporations including the introduction of a provision whereby a majority of directors of federally incorporated companies must be Canadian;
- . provide for Government intervention in cases where a Canadian company may be prevented from fulfilling export orders by its foreign ownership;
- . enhance Canadian processing of the country's natural resources which are exported, involving consultations with the provinces and negotiations with other countries;
- . ensure Canadian technological innovation is encouraged and available for the benefit of Canadian industry;
- . ensure ownership of fishing vessel licenses is retained by Canadians;
- . produce a new Citizenship Act;
- . confirm *O Canada!* as our national anthem;

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- . preserve the national heritage by providing incentives for the purchase by Canadian institutions of works of art which might otherwise be exported; and
- . bring assistance to Canadian cultural enterprises by extending the provisions of the Foreign Investment Review Act; by promoting the sale of Canadian books and magazines; and by opening discussions with provincial governments about ways to increase the exposure of Canadian films in commercial theatres in Canada.

The health of Canadians will be a priority for the Government, with emphasis being placed on the prevention of illness, which includes raising the