

## 6. SECURITY MAKES FOR PROSPERITY

I have given a few of the highlights of Canada's federal social security pattern. These measures, I believe, constitute a powerful incentive and guarantee of continuing prosperity and continuing security for the individual citizen and the Canadian family. In all action to raise the Canadian level of life by opening markets abroad for our products and by strengthening our domestic markets, I am certain that we are building enduring foundations for continuing prosperity, in which all these social security measures then appear as wise investments in stability.

It is a significant reflection that social justice is, after all, the best policy for government. Above all other considerations, a democratic government must be concerned for individual welfare. But it must not lose sight of the fact that individual security cannot really be protected by government action unless the basis of security is first provided. That means high national employment and national income figures and the creation of conditions favourable for the continuance of national employment and income at high levels.

In a bankrupt state there can be no such thing as citizen security. No one is interested in a fair share of scarcity. The first objective of any Canadian Government must be to build an enduring prosperity. The second objective must be to ensure by all sensible measures that everyone who is willing to work has a fair chance to get a satisfactory income, and that everyone who is unable to work should be brought under the broad protection of some social security measure.

In the past generation, Canada has come far along the road to a full programme for social security. Our incentive is an all-important one: to answer social need and social justice. In generously building defences for each citizen against the unavoidable hazards of life, this country will also be acting wisely -- for there can be no enduring prosperity if anything blocks the free flowing down of the nation's productivity to its people.