

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

administration that are involved in these changes of function. Legal provision has been made, in so far as it is possible, under the Public Service Re-arrangement and Transfer of Duties Act, and the new departments are operating in fact although they cannot be fully organized and cannot exist in name until legislation is passed by parliament. That legislation will be ready for parliamentary consideration just as soon as it can be reached in the program of work that I announced on September 12.

No government concerned about either the economic or the human development and future of this country can fail to be closely interested in the northern parts of Canada where so much development is still to be achieved and of which we hope so much. That is why I thought it right that my first major trip in Canada after becoming Prime Minister should be to the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. It was not my first trip to the far north but it was by far the most comprehensive. Like all who have travelled there I was overwhelmed by its vastness, impressed by the beauty of many areas, concerned by the human problems of many of its people, and inspired by the prospect of what I feel sure we can achieve.

A great deal has been accomplished in bringing education, vocational training and better housing to the Indians, the Eskimos and others resident in the north, but much remains to be done. The welfare of these people must be a major and active concern of the government, and a vitally important part of that concern must manifest itself in our efforts to stimulate the economic development on which future employment and prosperity will depend.

It was for this reason that the government, under the initiative of the former minister of Indian affairs and northern development, entered into participation with Panarctic Oils Limited for a major oil exploration program in the Queen Elizabeth Islands. This was the first year of that program and already it is ahead of its initial plans. More than 600 miles of seismic work has been done and more than 1,000 miles will be finished by the end of the year. The first drilling, based on the results of the seismic work, is planned for March, 1969.

In the course of my trip it was brought home to me that there is another aspect to the human problem in the north, an aspect other

than that relating to economics and development. It is the problem of isolation, the product of enormous distances and sparse population. There are many problems of life in the north that we cannot overcome but this is one we can overcome, not just in the far north but in the remoter portions of the provinces. The sense of isolation can be reduced and the possibility of participation in Canadian life enormously increased by better communications. That is why the government is going ahead actively with the development of satellite communications for this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Trudeau: If Canada were to limit itself to microwave networks and other means of surface communications it would be almost impossible to cover our remote areas. By use of satellites distance can be obliterated. We can bring television to all parts of the country not simply for recreation and entertainment, although these are important in remote areas, but to inform all our people on everything of concern to them in the world and the nation. Since the publication of the white paper on "A Domestic Satellite Communication System for Canada," a publication which came out last April, the government has had a special task force at work on planning a corporation to operate such a system. Study is well advanced on the problems of design and launching the necessary satellites, and legislation to provide the legal basis for action will be ready for introduction in this session of parliament.

Just as the establishment of effective transportation helped to build Canada in the 19th and 20 centuries, the establishment of rapid and effective communications in the future will help to keep it together. The new department of communications will, I hope, help to speed up the growth of effective and up to date communication links everywhere and at the same time provide a measure of regulation and vigilance over developments which can drastically affect the life of every Canadian.

Development in a particular region promotes the general well-being of Canada. For example, in British Columbia we see a continuation of activity which, though regional, has a profound impact on the totality of our country. The expansion of our trade with Japan, which has doubled in five years to approximately \$600 million in exports and \$300 million in imports, makes Japan our third largest trading partner and emphasizes