

tinuing. The Government will make every effort to reach agreement on arrangements that will discharge its responsibilities in a way that is fair to the provinces where the main sources of the oil and gas are located as well as to consumers in the country as a whole.

#### Food policy

At the same time as there is increasing concern about shortages in the supply of energy, it is apparent there is an inadequate supply of food in many parts of the world. In some countries the situation has reached critical proportions. In Canada there have not been such serious shortages but international market pressures have forced our food prices upwards. It is clear that this country's production must be increased. The Government is developing a policy on food based on the following objectives:

- an adequate and dependable supply of quality food for a growing population in Canada enjoying a rising standard of living;
- reasonable food prices;
- for the consumer, in not requiring an undue proportion of income for Canadians to secure a sufficient and balanced diet;
- for the producer, in providing a return adequate to encourage production of items which can be economically and efficiently produced in Canada;
- a continuing supply and increasing production of those food products in which Canada has a competitive advantage for export to commercial markets and also for a contribution to international food-aid programs.

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#### Increased food production

As positive steps in the achievement of adequate supplies of food at a reasonable cost, measures directed in the main at increasing food production will be laid before you in the following areas:

- guaranteed loans and other forms of assistance to both farmers and fishermen to assist them in purchasing or modernizing their equipment;
- amendments to the Export and Import Permits Act to provide the Government with better means to stabilize the Canadian market;
- improving the availability of manpower for food production;

- assistance in the construction of new storage facilities;
- research to make it possible to increase production, improve quality, and lower costs;
- improvements in harbour facilities for fishing fleets;
- incentives to increase Canada's catch of unexploited stocks of fish;
- advance payments on crops to assure producers of timely cash receipts;
- an agricultural stabilization plan to encourage rational production decisions;
- assistance to young farmers to provide sufficient financial incentives for them to establish themselves in farming;
- better veterinary training facilities;
- a prairie grain market insurance plan;
- improvements in Canadian grain rail transportation capabilities;
- increased availability of reasonably priced feed grains;
- incentives to increase the production of livestock necessary to provide for Canadian and export markets.

As part of the Government's economic management, a major element in the policy to mitigate inflation is to increase production and supply: many measures have been indicated with respect to energy and food. Of course, Canadians must strengthen their economy in other ways to expand employment opportunities and achieve a greater degree of control over their economic affairs.

#### Business Development Bank

Measures will be proposed to aid small businesses, both financially and by providing better counselling services by the creation of a Federal Business Development Bank. Steps will be taken to ensure further processing of resources in Canada. The Government will encourage the development of the petrochemical industry based on the upgrading of Canadian resources and better access to world markets. Amendments will be proposed to the Bank Act in order to permit provinces to participate in the ownership of banks. An amendment to the Export Development Act will be introduced to encourage further expansion of Canada's foreign trade. Proposals will be made to ensure Canadian control of the computer communications field.

Amendments to the Combines Investigation Act, directed at encouraging competition, will be put before you.

#### Science and technology

The development and use of technology is also essential to the Government's approach to increasing national economic production. Steps will be taken to obtain greater returns from industrial research and development as well as technological innovation in Canada.

Scientific knowledge and its application is a keystone to meeting the challenges facing Canada, including those in the areas of food, energy or industrial development. The objective of the Government's science policy is the rational generation and acquisition of scientific knowledge and the planned use of science and technology in support of national goals. The Ministry of State for Science and Technology will be developing national science objectives as a basis for exercising enhanced advisory and co-ordinating authority within the Government. Two new granting councils will be formed, one for social sciences and humanities and the other for natural sciences.

#### Regional development

The Government attaches great importance to regional development. Many of the measures to be introduced during this Session were discussed at the Western Economic Opportunities Conference, and will be of benefit to all areas of Canada. Transportation in particular is a key factor in regional development. A number of measures will be taken in the larger context of ensuring that Canada's transportation capability supports the Government's national goals and is safe and efficient. Steps will be taken to end any discrimination in freight rates. A new ports policy will be developed to ensure an effective and comprehensive port structure in Canada in a framework where a high degree of local involvement in management and improvement of ports can be established.

#### Community employment policy

Other measures will be taken to increase production and employment through providing workers with improved access to available jobs, and employers with improved access to Canada's manpower. These steps will relate employment policy, immigration