

The focus of the second stage of competition policy reform will be a strengthening of the laws governing mergers and monopolies in order to encourage a more efficient and dynamic economy; one that rewards the creative and the industrious; that allows prices to be determined by the free play of market forces while protecting the marketplace from excessive concentrations of power. The more effectively competition governs the marketplace, the less necessity there will be for detailed regulation and control of the economy by governments.

On the other hand, where competition is inadequate the Government must intervene to protect the public interest. For this reason, changes will be introduced to the National Transportation Act to protect against unfair freight rates.

There is a growing awareness among Canadians of the need for more careful conservation of vital energy resources such as petroleum and natural gas. The Government will place further emphasis on research and development of renewable energy sources and on means of improving the efficiency with which energy is used in Canada, particularly the thermal efficiency of residential and commercial buildings.

To ensure responsible development of our indigenous resources, the Government intends to introduce measures to regulate exploration and development on federal lands.

With a view to conserving the food resources of the sea, and improving the livelihood of Canadian fishermen, the Government will proclaim by the first of January its extended jurisdiction over waters within two hundred miles of our coastline.

As a further element of the Government's food policy, measures will be introduced to make more farm-stored crops eligible for advance payments. The Government will also work with the provinces and farm organizations to strengthen the structure and productivity of Canadian agriculture.

[*Translation*]

In the field of social policy, extensive federal-provincial discussions over the past three years have resulted in a new framework for the sharing of costs and for making social service programs more responsive. Parliament will therefore be asked to consider a new Social Services Act which will substantially improve the effectiveness of cost-shared social services in Canada, especially for the aged, children and the handicapped.

In response to the need for good day-care services everywhere in Canada, the Government will help to provide more and better day-care services by encouraging the provincial governments to adopt a new system of fees related to incomes. A great many more Canadian mothers who seek employment outside the home will thereby be free to do so, because partially subsidized day-care will be more widely available.

You will be asked to consider amendments to the Canada Pension Plan which would further recognize the value of the contribution made to the family and society by both marriage partners, in the event that one remains at home to raise children while their partner works outside the home, or in the event of marriage breakdown.

On January first, the indexing of family allowance payments will be resumed to compensate for the rise in the cost of living during 1976.

In the areas of medical insurance, hospital insurance and post-secondary education, negotiations will continue with the provinces concerning the gradual introduction of new financial and administrative arrangements. These changes would not only allow the provinces to exercise greater flexibility in the provision of services, but would also serve the federal government's goal of co-operative restraint upon the rising cost of health and social security programs.

Of equal importance to the social well-being of Canadians is an adequate supply of affordable housing in a satisfactory community environment. Therefore, the goal of one million new homes over four years remains a key element of the Government's housing policy. In concert with other levels of government and the private sector the Government will work to increase the efficiency and impact of Canada's total housing effort.

The Government attaches continuing importance to meeting the aspirations of Canada's native peoples and, in particular, to the just settlement of their land claims. At this session, you will be asked to approve the negotiated settlement of claims in the James Bay region.

In the aftermath of the highly successful Montreal Olympics, and the gratifying results achieved by Canadian athletes, federal support for selected amateur sport and fitness programs will be further augmented.

[*Text*]

This year, the Law Reform Commission of Canada submitted a report on family law which merits the attention of all Canadians. The Government intends to carry on discussions with the provinces to encourage the creation of unified Family Courts with comprehensive jurisdiction over family law permitting disputes to be dealt with more constructively. In addition the government will discuss with the provinces and with the public other aspects of family law bearing on the stability of marriage, the protection of children and the fair sharing of the economic consequences of marital breakdown.

Canadians are becoming increasingly sensitive to the fact that Canada cannot live in dignity as a nation while other people, in less fortunate lands, live in a state of deprivation and hopelessness.

It is not in Canada's economic, political or moral interest to allow the gap to widen between the wealth of the few and the poverty of the many. Therefore the Government will continue to participate in the task of shaping a new international economic order, designed to provide a greater measure of hope to nations seeking the opportunity to help themselves.

The world is now confronted with a broad range of problems of such complexity and widespread scope that no single nation or group of nations is able to apply effective solutions. Only global solutions will do.

Increasingly, therefore, Canada's international activities are being directed toward broad-scale co-operative activities.