

The securing to farmers of a fair share of the national income, through the maintenance of prices of farm products, has received constant attention and continues to be a matter of prime concern to my Government. Our farms have yielded surpluses which have necessitated a revision of existing measures to stabilize farm prices to ensure that their basic purpose is achieved without the wasteful accumulation of surplus stocks. The severe, unseasonal snow in the Prairie Provinces interrupted the harvest rendering necessary emergency legislation which will be considered at the earliest possible opportunity.

Legislation to provide for a Canadian Bill of Rights will be placed before you for your approval.

My Ministers have had under consideration the enactment of a provision that would enable the establishment of a uniform retirement age of seventy-five for all Judges appointed under the authority of the Parliament of Canada. Agreement has now been reached with all Provincial Governments on this principle. You will accordingly be asked to approve a resolution leading to an appropriate amendment to the British North America Act, and you will then be asked to make consequential amendments to the Judges Act.

Bills will also be submitted for your approval to give added status and responsibility to the Territorial Councils of the Yukon and Northwest Territories and to improve the administration of justice in the Territories.

Amendments to the Combines Investigation Act and the related provisions of the Criminal Code will be laid before you to clarify and improve this Act and protect the interests of small business firms.

You will be requested to revise the Civil Service Act and a Special Committee of the House of Commons will be proposed for the consideration of the bill. Amendments to the Public Service Superannuation Act will also be placed before you.

An amendment will be proposed to the Federal-Provincial Tax-Sharing Arrangements Act to extend, for the two remaining fiscal years covered by that Act, the increase in the share of the revenue from the personal income tax that is allocated to the Provinces. You will also be asked to authorize, for any Provinces which desire them, alternative arrangements in respect of university grants.

Legislation will be introduced to give Indians the franchise in Federal elections. You will be invited to re-establish the Joint Committee on Indian Affairs.

You will be asked to authorize the establishment of a new department to be concerned with affairs relating to the forests of Canada and their most effective utilization and conservation, and to assume responsibility for other related resources.

You will be requested to extend for three years the operation of the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act.

An amendment will also be proposed to the National Energy Board Act authorizing the temporary extension of the licences for the export of electricity until the Board can conclude its urgent business on export of gas.