

tinue to jeopardize price stability and the Government must not relax its efforts to bring about a greater consistency between future cost increases and productivity growth.

Favourable balance of payment trends led to a strengthening of the Canadian dollar. Upward pressure on the dollar intensified this year and on May 31, 1970, the Canadian dollar was allowed to seek its natural level. The Canadian Government declared, however, that it intended to resume its obligations under the IMF articles of agreement when circumstances would permit.

You have continued in your efforts to eliminate regional economic disparities and to encourage the development of our economy. You have enacted amendments to the Industrial Research and Development Incentives Act. You have also enacted amendments to the Small Business Loans Act, to the Quebec Savings Bank Act, to the Foreign Insurance Companies Act, the Trust Companies Act, the Loans Companies Act and to the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act.

You have made provision for a more just and equitable administration of our financial and commercial affairs by enacting amendments to the Bills of Exchange Act and the Canada Corporations Act.

Committees of both the House of Commons and the Senate have considered the Government's Proposals for Tax Reform and have made recommendations thereon. Committees in the Senate have continued their studies of the mass media, of poverty, and of science policy. In the House of Commons, committees have studied a great variety of matters including veterans' pensions, interest rates, external affairs, defence policy, electronic eavesdropping, and unemployment insurance.

The Constitutional Conference continued the difficult task of seeking a national political consensus that will reflect the needs and aspirations of all Canadians. To assist in achieving this objective, you have established a Special Joint Committee on the Constitution.

Many other important initiatives have been taken during this session; much legislation of administrative importance has also been enacted; we have accomplished a great deal. But our immense task has only begun. We must continue to work together, to combine our strength, our will, and our imagination in the building of a peaceful, dynamic and prosperous society.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I thank you for the provision you have made for the public services in the previous and the current fiscal year.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

May Divine Providence continue to bless our country.