

# CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN



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## WEEK'S EVENTS IN REVIEW

**OPENING OF PARLIAMENT:** Two motions of non-confidence in the Government were moved in the House of Commons on November 24 as the House proceeded with consideration of the Speech from the Throne which was read by Governor General Vincent Massey at the opening of the Seventh Session of the Twenty-First Parliament on November 20.

Mr. George Drew, Leader of the Official Opposition, first addressed the House on November 24, summarising his criticisms in the following motion, which was seconded by Mr. Gordon Graydon (Progressive Conservative, Peel):

"We regret that your Excellency's advisers have failed:

(a) To relieve Canadian taxpayers from the burden of excessive and unjust taxation;

(b) To eliminate waste and extravagance and thereby reduce taxes and the cost of living;

(c) To take any effective steps to regain the Commonwealth markets for food and other products upon which the prosperity of our farmers and other basic producers so directly depends;

(d) To conduct inquiries in consultation with the provincial governments, so that necessary information may be available for the dominion and provincial Governments to consider jointly a national health insurance programme;

(e) To reach agreement with the provincial governments in regard to a clearly defined re-allocation of taxing powers so that the provincial governments and municipal councils may

have adequate financial resources to carry out their rapidly increasing responsibilities."

Quoting from the Speech from the Throne the phrase, "there are signs of a lessening of the danger of an outbreak of war on a global scale," Mr. Drew declared it to be "of supreme importance that the Government give the facts upon which such statement was based and also clearly indicate the inference that is to be drawn from this statement."

In his reply to Mr. Drew's address, the Prime Minister said on this point:

"It never was intended to imply that it was possible to lessen our efforts to build up and maintain the combined forces of the free nations in Europe. I do not want to pose as a military expert, but as a Canadian citizen I do not feel that there are sufficient allied forces on the continent of Europe at this time to resist aggression from the Soviet forces. I feel quite convinced that strength has to continue to be built up and will then have to be maintained as an insurance premium against the possible outbreak of war in that important section of the free world...."

On the subject of the nation's war effort Mr. St. Laurent said, in part:

"When it is said that we have nothing to show for the sums that Parliament has appropriated, we should not forget that the regular personnel of our services before Korea was 47,185 and that it has recently reached over 100,000. This is the largest number ever maintained, outside of war periods, by this young nation.

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