

Canada Weekly

Volume 2, No. 42

October 16, 1974



Ottawa, Canada.

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Throne Speech emphasizes restrained spending and higher production

The Government has promised to exercise restraint in its own spending but not deliberately slow down the economy in its fight against inflation.

"Higher production, not lower, is essential to slowing down price increases," said Chief Justice Bora Laskin, reading the Speech from the Throne at the opening of Canada's thirtieth Parliament on September 30. Mr. Justice Laskin was replacing Governor-General Jules Léger, who is recovering from a stroke.

Legislation will be passed to boost food production, curb profiteering, assist small businesses and encourage the exploration of oil and gas.

Grants will be made to people buying houses for the first time and for a new-house warranty system, as well as for a Registered Home Owners' Savings Plan.

Transportation will be improved; veterans and pensioners will be helped by revised exemptions; changes will be made in the Criminal Code; broader foreign investment regulations will be implemented; and confirmation of O Canada! as the national anthem were some of the highlights contained in the Speech, passages from which follow:

...Canada has thus far suffered less from inflation than most other countries, but the problem is serious and urgent. For its part, the Government will exercise restraint in its own expenditures with particular emphasis on improving effectiveness and efficiency in its existing operations while controlling expansion of new activities which, although desirable, would contribute to inflationary pressures. The Federal Government will urge that provincial and municipal governments take similar steps.

* * * *

The Government does not intend deliberately to generate slack in the economy in order to combat inflation. Higher production, not lower, is essential to slowing down price advances. The Government does intend to ask all Canadians to join with it in co-operative effort to achieve by non-inflationary means an equitable sharing among all groups in the community of the fruits of our productive efforts.

Supply of goods and services

In order to increase the supply of goods and services, which is the first objective of the Government in dealing with inflation, a number of measures will be proposed:

- To increase food production – incentives to farmers and fishermen

including the stabilization of incomes and markets,

- continued international action to ensure that Canada has the right to manage its coastal resources and environment, including the conservation of fish stocks;
- To increase construction of homes –
- financial assistance in order to reduce the cost of serviced land and to encourage land assembly;
- To increase economic productivity –
- greater financial and other support for small business,
- continued reorientation of manpower activities so that Canadians are trained and available in the right locations to fill the increased number of job opportunities,
- amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act,
- extension of the Regional Development Incentives Act;
- To increase the supply of energy –
- the establishment of Petro-Canada, the national petroleum corporation,
- guarantees for domestic control of uranium and for adequate future supplies related to Canadian needs,
- steps to ensure that the price of Canadian oil and gas is regulated in a manner which will encourage necessary exploration and development in Canada;
- To ensure continued export of Canadian grain –