

The maintenance of full employment will require, in the period of transition from war to peace, a rapid and efficient conversion of war industries, the enlargement of markets at home and abroad, intensified research into new uses of our natural resources, programs of national and regional development, including housing and community planning.

Suitable peace-time uses for war plants are being sought, and plans are being made for their speedy conversion. To assist in the conversion of war plants and in the development of small and medium-scale industrial enterprises, the provision of additional credit facilities, for both fixed and working capital, will be required. To meet this need, your approval will be sought for the establishment of an Industrial Development Bank as a subsidiary of the Bank of Canada. Expenditures on development work, in preparation for the transition of industry from war to peace, will be encouraged by suitable tax modifications.

To assist in developing post-war export markets for primary and secondary industries, a measure will be submitted to provide for the insurance or guarantee of export credits, and steps are being taken to expand the trade commissioner service abroad.

Provision will be made to expand research activities.

A measure to amend and supplement existing housing legislation will be introduced.

A considerable measure of social security is already provided under federal and provincial legislation, but the working out of a comprehensive national scheme, in which federal and provincial activities will be integrated and which will include nation-wide health insurance, will require further consultation and close co-operation with the provinces. My Ministers will welcome opportunities for such consultation.

When suitable agreements are reached with the provinces, My Ministers will be prepared to recommend measures to provide for federal assistance in a nation-wide system of health insurance, and for a national scheme of contributory old age pensions on a more generous basis than that at present in operation.

The family and the home are the foundation of national life. To aid in ensuring a minimum of well-being to the children of the nation and to help gain for them a closer approach to equality of opportunity in the battle of life, you will be asked to approve a measure making provision for family allowances.

My Ministers believe that the time is rapidly approaching when a Minister of the Crown should be responsible for each of the three broad fields of post-war planning. You will accordingly be asked to approve the establishment of the following departments of government:—

(1) A Department of Veterans' Affairs to have charge of the rehabilitation and re-establishment of members of the armed forces, and the administration of veterans' pensions and allowances;

(2) A Department of Reconstruction to promote and co-ordinate planning for national development and post-war employment; and

(3) A Department of Social Welfare to organize and to assist in administering activities of the federal government in the fields of health and social insurance.

Underlying efforts for the winning of the war and the solution of post-war problems is the necessity of preventing the inflationary effects of war. My