

The late M. A. Hardie

take into account private pension arrangements and the need for legislation concerning portability of pension rights.

You will be asked to authorize the establishment of a national council of welfare similar to the council of health which has had a long record of usefulness.

You will be asked to approve an amendment to the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act to authorize the payment of allowances under specified conditions to merchant seamen, fire-fighters, foresters, members of voluntary aid detachments and certain other civilians whose war services overseas have been recognized in other respects. Other amending bills will provide for increased allowances and other improvements in the Children of War Dead (Education Assistance) Act and also for the extension of the effective period of the War Services Grants Act and the Veterans Insurance Act and for the extension of the qualifying period under the Veterans Land Act.

My government will also ask you to appropriate moneys required in the unemployment insurance fund to safeguard the rights of workers until the report of the special committee inquiring into the unemployment insurance program has been received and can be acted upon.

You will be asked to increase the federal grants to universities and make suitable provision in those cases where alternative arrangements are made for supplementary provincial grants in lieu of federal grants.

My government is initiating negotiations with the provincial and municipal authorities with a view to removing the tolls on the Victoria and Jacques Cartier bridges in Montreal; should these be successful you will be asked to approve legislation for this purpose.

You will be asked to authorize the institution of an automobile ferry service between North Sydney, Nova Scotia, and Argentina, Newfoundland, and to provide for the construction of the necessary vessel and docks.

Other measures will be introduced to amend the Broadcasting Act, the Canada Shipping Act, the Canadian National Railways Capital Revision Act, the Bankruptcy Act and a number of other statutes. You will be asked to approve the ratification of the universal copyright convention.

Members of the House of Commons:

My government intends to ask you to reconstitute the special committee on procedure of the house and request it to make recommendations on the elimination of closure of debates in the House of Commons.

The estimates required for the public service and for payments authorized by parliament will be laid before you.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I pray that God in His wisdom may grant you light and grace in your deliberations and the fulfilment of your duties.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister) moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the house.

Motion agreed to.

THE LATE MERVYN ARTHUR HARDIE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, as we return to our duties we also return to one of those oc-

casions when the house becomes as one. We recall the work of those who have passed on during the interim, and I am speaking now of Mervyn Arthur Hardie, the late member for Mackenzie River. He was first elected to the House of Commons in 1953 and re-elected in 1957 and 1958. A young man, his life had been given to public service. He had served on the Yellowknife council and the Northwest Territories council.

One thinks of him as a young man of indomitable courage. Indeed, as I look back over the years that I have been a member of the House of Commons I can say that nothing that has taken place has had a greater appeal than those simple words of Mr. Hardie on his return to this chamber after many months in hospital. His was a message of deep and abiding faith. It moved the house because of that fact. Indeed, there is nothing more moving in the life of men than a faith in God and all that faith means in the lives of those who have that belief.

Mr. Hardie knew his constituency well. I saw him there when I visited the Northwest Territories in the summer on the occasion of my meeting with the Northwest Territories council. There was a luncheon in advance and it was obvious then that he was suffering greatly. Indeed, before the luncheon was over he had to leave and go back to hospital. His health was failing greatly, but his determination and that courage which he displayed throughout with regard to the suffering that was his will always remain as an ineffaceable memory of one who, in but a few short years in the House of Commons and in a comparatively short life, gave to members on all sides of the house an understanding of that peace that passes understanding.

I know I speak for members in all parts of the house when I say that by that faith he possessed he left his imprint on all of us. We mourn his passing and I extend on behalf of the government of Canada, and I know on behalf of the whole house, to his wife and family this expression of our sincere sorrow.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): On behalf of our party, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Prime Minister for what he has said about a man who was a very loyal and courageous member and supporter of the party, but who was also more than that. He was a very loyal and courageous servant of his country. Mervyn Hardie was a very courageous man, at times an unconventional one. He served Canada not only courageously but at times in unconventional and adventurous ways.