

Prorogation of Parliament

strengthen the forces of peace and to participate fully in all efforts which are being made to solve the international problems which so unhappily divide the world.

This year is again one of continuing growth and development of the Canadian economy. Business conditions are good and employment is at a high level. Our international trade also is attaining record levels. The abnormal stocks of grain resulting from several bumper harvests have been reduced by heavy sales abroad. The confidence Canadians have in our economic strength is reflected in the high volume of capital expenditures for this year which show a substantial increase even over those of last year. Indeed, we are blessed with prosperous conditions in nearly all sectors of the national economy.

To alleviate financial difficulties some grain producers were experiencing because of a shortage of elevator storage space you authorized the government to guarantee bank loans secured by farm-stored grain. You also authorized the treasury to bear the cost from August 1, 1955 of storage and interest charges on wheat held by the Canadian wheat board over and above the normal carryover levels.

Legislation has been enacted which authorizes the government to make tax equalization payments and provincial revenue stabilization payments to provincial governments as well as tax rental payments to those provinces which may enter into agreements with the federal government as an alternative to levying certain direct taxes on their own behalf. These measures were discussed at meetings between federal and provincial representatives this year and last and my ministers feel these new arrangements constitute a comprehensive and realistic improvement in the fiscal relations between the federal and provincial governments.

The government has also announced that, once a majority of the provincial governments, representing a majority of the Canadian people, are ready to proceed, it would be prepared to recommend legislation to provide for the payment to the provinces concerned of a substantial share of the cost of a hospital care insurance program.

You have approved legislation authorizing the government to enter into agreements with the provincial governments for sharing the costs of assistance to unemployed persons in need who are not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. Agreements have been signed with six provincial governments.

As a result of legislation enacted at this session, construction has commenced on an all-Canadian natural gas pipe line to bring Alberta gas to eastern consuming markets.

You have passed a measure amending the Trans-Canada Highway Act to authorize increased federal participation in the construction of the trans-

Canada highway, with a view to accelerating the completion of this important national link.

The National Housing Act has been amended to enable the government more effectively to encourage and assist the redevelopment of older sections of our cities. This act has also been amended to increase further the amounts of loans available for home improvements.

A joint committee of both houses made an extended investigation of the progress and programs of the federal district commission. The committee's study will be most useful in providing guidance for the future development of our national capital.

You have made it possible to enlarge the services available to our farming population through the Canadian farm loan board, and the Farm Improvement Loans Act.

You have extended the scope of the industrial development bank in order to promote still further the growth of smaller industries throughout the country.

You enacted a measure authorizing the Canadian National Railways to construct a branch line from Bartibog to Tomogonops river in the province of New Brunswick.

An act has been passed providing that women receive equal pay with men for equal work in industries which are under federal jurisdiction.

Amendments have been made to the Unemployment Insurance Act, among which is one that will permit the extension of that legislation to cover most of those engaged in the fishing industry.

Amendments have also been made to the Canada Shipping Act, the Navigable Waters Protection Act, the Indian Act, the Canadian Citizenship Act, the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act, the Post Office Act, the Small Loans Act, the Telegraphs Act, the Judges Act, the Supreme Court Act and the Criminal Code, the Northwest Territories Power Commission Act, the Foreign Insurance Companies Act, the Canadian and British Insurance Companies Act, the Public Service Superannuation Act, the Defence Services Pension Act, the National Defence Act, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Act, the National Parks Act, the Veterans Business and Professional Loans Act, the Canada Lands Surveys Act and the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the supplies you have voted for the public service.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I pray that Divine Providence may continue to bless, protect and guide our nation.

This concluded the third session of the twenty-second parliament.