

The Honourable the Speaker of the Commons then addressed His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada, as follows:—

“May It Please Your Excellency:

The Commons of Canada have voted certain supplies required to enable the Government to defray the expenses of the Public Service:

In the name of the Commons, I present to Your Excellency the following Bill:—

An Act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1956.

To which Bill I humbly request Your Excellency's assent.”

After the Clerk had read the title of the Bill,—

To this Bill the Royal Assent was pronounced by the Clerk of the Senate in the following words:—

“In Her Majesty's name, His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada thanks Her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence and assents to this Bill”.

After which His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada was pleased to close the Second Session of the Twenty-second Parliament of Canada, with the following Speech:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

Since we first met earlier this year there has been considerable evidence that the policies of the free nations to combine their strength in order to deter any threat from a potential aggressor have been successful. My Ministers believe that the more encouraging signs of international harmony are proof of the wisdom of the measures thus taken in co-operation with other democracies. While continuing to support the United Nations and to use all available diplomatic channels for the easing of international tensions, they remain convinced of the necessity of continuing to improve the combined defence power of the North Atlantic Alliance. Towards the fulfilment of this aim you have approved the Paris agreements which ended the occupation of Western Germany and which enabled the German Federal Republic to join the defensive alliance of the West.

During the session several of my Ministers met with representatives of the ten provincial governments to make arrangements for a federal-provincial conference which will take place this autumn.

Meetings between the federal and provincial representatives were held in June for the purpose of determining a plan to share the costs of assistance to unemployed persons in need. The suggestions put forward at these meetings are now being studied by the provincial governments and the acceptances of three of them have already been received.

In the early months of the session the employment situation gave some concern but more recently the requests for labour have greatly increased and the expanding production, rising exports and prospects of bountiful crops indicate a continuing healthy state of the Canadian economy.