

*Prorogation of Parliament*

At no session since the Criminal Code was introduced in Canada have there been such extensive and fundamental amendments of the criminal law. The amendments which you approved reflected the concern of Canadians that criminal sanctions be employed to protect public order, but not to enforce private beliefs.

It was this concern about the use of legal controls to regulate private conduct which caused the Government to establish a committee of enquiry into the non-medical use of drugs.

You have directed your attention to the high cost of the medical use of drugs and by assuring competition in their production and sale without prejudice to safety standards, you have strengthened the position of Canadian consumers.

You have also approved legislation that will protect Canadian consumers from the dangers of certain hazardous products which may be available on our markets.

In order to improve the quality of health, recreation and competitive sport in Canada, the Government tabled the Report of the Task Force on Sport and implemented a substantial number of its recommendations.

Labour disputes of major concern to the national interest were considered by Parliament. Anxious to improve many aspects of management-labour relations, the Government tabled a Task Force Report on Labour Relations which will provide the background for legislation to be introduced in the next session.

During this session, you have enacted a number of measures to give financial assistance to the farming community. You have extended the provisions of the Prairie Grain Advance Payment Act to provide further liquidity to the farmers of Western Canada. The Farm Improvement Loans Act, the Farm Syndicates Credit Act, and the Farm Credit Act have all been expanded in their application. You have approved a measure to regulate plant quarantine, and to provide or extend compensation for losses due to pesticide residues, animal contagious diseases, and plants destroyed to prevent the spread of disease.

A new measure which you have enacted established the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation to improve marketing opportunities for the fisheries industries of Western Canada. The Government has also provided special assistance to the producers of the Atlantic fisheries to help them through a difficult period.

The creation of the new Department of Communications sought to consolidate the responsibilities of the Government of Canada in that field and to assure that recent advances in technology would be made available to Canadians. You approved amendments to the Post Office Act, and a study of the future development of the Post Office was undertaken. An imaginative piece of legislation established Telesat Canada which will provide this country with communications from a synchronous satellite early in the next decade.

In the face of encouraging prospects of resource development in the Yukon and Northwest Territories, you have approved the Oil and Gas Production and Conservation Act which will provide a new system for the orderly development of oil and gas resources.

A number of other important items of legislation were approved in this first session of the twenty-eighth Parliament which has been distinguished by innovation and reform. This creditable record is the beginning of a comprehensive program of legislation which must be enacted if we are to achieve our common goals of peace, justice and national prosperity.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

Thank you for the provision you have made for the public services in the previous and current fiscal year.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:**Members of the House of Commons:*

May Divine Providence continue to bless our country.

This concluded the first session of the twenty-eighth parliament.