

Believing that the ultimate success of efforts to improve Canada's trade and employment and the standard of living of Canadian workers depends largely upon increasing Canadian productivity, my Ministers will ask you to authorize the establishment of a Productivity Council. Its membership would include Canadians from the fields of industry and commerce, organized labour, agriculture and other primary production, as well as qualified individuals chosen from the public at large and from the scientific agencies of government. The purpose of this Council would be to strengthen Canada's competitive position in export and domestic markets by improving the productivity of primary and secondary industries.

You will also be asked to give early consideration to a bill authorizing Government guarantees for bank loans to small businesses to finance additions and improvements to their business premises and equipment. My Ministers are convinced that additional medium term credit facilities for small businesses would enable many private projects to go forward this winter all across Canada, providing substantial additional employment. Moreover, this addition to our credit legislation will constitute a continuing stimulus to the growth of Canadian private enterprise.

A bill will also be laid before you to extend the assistance given to Provincial Governments for vocational training, both in the school system and in the training and re-training of those who have already become workers. With more advanced technology in industry and the need to increase productivity, better technical training of the youth of Canada is required and more re-training of Canadian workers who have to transfer to other jobs or trades. This is particularly necessary in those areas where job opportunities in traditional industries are limited. In order to get this programme underway quickly, you will be asked to approve grants of seventy-five per cent of the amounts expended, up to March 31st, 1963, in building approved technical schools or training institutions.

Amendments to the Unemployment Insurance Act will be placed before you to safeguard the basic purpose of the Act, to strengthen the Fund and to correct abuses which have developed in practice.

As an additional step in the national agricultural programme, you will also be asked to approve enabling legislation to authorize the Federal Government to join with Provincial authorities and local groups throughout Canada in comprehensive programmes of rural rehabilitation and development. My Ministers believe that as farming is a basic Canadian industry it must be made more stable and remunerative. Widening the uses of Canada's farm lands and water resources will be necessary for this purpose.

Among other measures in the long range programme, you will be requested to approve a number of major projects of national development. The largest of these will be the development of the water power on the Columbia River. Agreement has been reached with the Government of the United States on a plan for the cooperative development of the use of these waters and a treaty will be submitted to you for approval in due course. You will also be asked to take the action necessary to fulfil Canada's part in implementing it.