and natural resource income. Special rules for this purpose will be included in the bill and in the regulations.

The natural resource industries will not qualify for the two-year fast write-off or the special reductions in the rate of corporate tax because there are already in existence other incentives better suited to the needs of these industries. However, I am introducing tonight a further incentive to encourage more processing of our mineral resources through smelting and refining in Canada. I propose that the class of expenditures which earn depletion be extended to include all equipment acquired after tonight for the purpose of processing in Canada mineral ores after extraction and up to the prime metal stage. This will include all processing, whether or not related to a new mine or a major expansion, as well as custom processing. Furthermore, I propose that all of the income from such processing operations be considered as income against which depletion may be claimed and in respect of which the 15 per cent provincial abatement will apply.

Of course, as mineral resources are processed beyond the prime metal stage and oil and gas are refined beyond the crude stage, these further activities will be considered manufacturing and processing and will, therefore, be eligible for both the fast write-off and the rate reduction.

Most machinery and equipment is now written off for tax purposes at a 20-per-cent rate on a declining balance method. Tonight's proposal will permit machinery and equipment required for manufacturing operations to be written off within two years. It will replace the measure introduced in December, 1970, whereby manufacturing and processing enterprises were permitted to value new investment in depreciable assets at 115 per cent of their actual cost.

These measures will serve to increase substantially the cash flow of manufacturers and processors. Until the present, manufacturing and processing companies in Canada have borne a considerable weight of the corporate income tax. The ratio of tax paid to the value of their output has been much higher for corporations in this field than for other goods-producing companies. The changes proposed tonight will, I believe, put them in a more equitable position.

• (2040)

The tax treatment of companies engaged in manufacturing and processing will now compare very favourably with that in other nations, particularly the United States and the enlarged Common Market countries. Accordingly, it is to be expected that these measures will provide a substantial incentive for the establishment in Canada of new manufacturing enterprises and the expansion of existing enterprises by increasing the return that can ultimately be realized on capital investment.

The increase in the flow of funds available to these industries will strengthen their ability to compete with foreign manufacturers in a variety of ways. They make use of these expanded resources to finance new research and development, to finance an expansion of productive capacity, to introduce new product lines and to finance the development of new cost-reducing methods.

The improved financial position of these enterprises should also significantly enhance their ability to meet

[Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton).]

foreign competition in terms of price. With respect to those industries where there is at present a marked difference between Canadian and foreign price levels, I expect the savings permitted by these measures to be used to bring about a substantial reduction, and ultimately the elimination, of these price differentials.

Mr. Lewis: What is the expectation based upon?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): Members of the House may ask what guarantee there is that this added cash flow will be used by our manufacturing industries for business expansion or to reduce prices, and not merely for higher profits. My answer is that I am confident that businessmen will see and recognize the underlying purpose of the government. Certainly we want to encourage a reasonable return on investment. But we also expect competitive prices, both at home and abroad. We expect the money to be used for new equipment and to replace equipment that is obsolescent. I expect business to get out and hustle, to grow, to compete, and to build jobs for Canadians. I am sure that the business community will justify this confidence and prove me right.

The measures which I am proposing to reinforce the expansion of manufacturing industries will be of benefit to all regions of the country. They will, of course, help to stimulate the growth of manufacturing in those areas of the country where it is already well developed. But they will also facilitate the establishment of new plants in those regions now relying heavily on resources. These regions are actively seeking to broaden their industrial base by promoting the development of manufacturing and processing.

This radical revision of the corporate tax system as it affects manufacturers and processors will require us to forego revenue amounting to about $500 million in a full year. But these measures should not be regarded so much as a cost to the federal treasury as a major investment by the nation that over time will more than repay itself in terms of increasing jobs for our workers and increasing prosperity for all Canadians.

I also wish to announce tonight an extension for one year of the existing provisions permitting a fast write-off of capital expenditures made by manufacturers or producers to provide air and water pollution control. Thus, such machinery and equipment purchased at any time before the end of 1974, and buildings to house pollution control equipment which are started before the end of 1973, will be eligible for the fast write-off. These fast write-off provisions will also be broadened to cover the costs of buildings, machinery and equipment acquired by independent companies providing pollution control services.

I turn now, Mr. Speaker, to other proposals again directly affecting the welfare of individual Canadians.

Over a period of some months, growing concern has been expressed both by members of this House and the public generally about the threat posed to the financial security of some Canadian citizens who have little or no ability to protect themselves from the burden of rising living costs. I have in mind particularly the elderly, a large proportion of whom are women, those veterans receiving pensions to compensate them for disabilities suffered in