

Speech from the Throne

Every one of us is enriched through involvement in this stimulating process we call Canada. Our goals and hopes are bound up in the restlessness and vitality of this rich land. We in this place have a special responsibility to help bring these goals and those hopes within reach, to make real the Canada of which our forefathers dreamed: a land so large that some of it will remain always serene and unspoiled; a society which believes in the dignity of every single individual; a community which husbands its resources and shares them justly among this generation and those to follow; an enterprise which permits and provokes each Canadian to contribute his skills and his talents.

There will be opportunity in this session of this parliament to pursue these ends. The Government will lay before you proposals to continue the development of our national wealth, to deal more compassionately with those in our midst who require help, to involve more Canadians in the ferment and satisfaction of community activities, to protect our natural heritage, and to strengthen our sense of identity and our image of ourselves.

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Economic security is one of the most effective forces with which to counter social isolation. Job opportunities must be found and income uncertainties overcome if all Canadians are to share in the richness of this land. To permit the protection and enhancement of those values and those rights which distinguish Canada as a human place, a sound economy is absolutely essential. The attainment of such an economy retains a high priority in the Government's continuing programme. The social phenomenon of economic instability is present today in every industrialized country. We are fortunate that its ill effects have been less pronounced in Canada than elsewhere. Our success in increasing our real gross national product, in the creation of new jobs, and in the maintenance of price stability has been achieved through a policy which encourages an economic environment within which business and all elements of society are able to benefit. At the same time the Government has worked to strengthen and promote the economies of the less developed regions of Canada. Simultaneously, a range of programmes has been introduced to deal with the specific problems of those localities and individuals affected by unemployment at different times of the year.

Unemployment continues to be a matter of intense concern to the Government and will remain a primary focus of attention and action. Co-operation with the business and industrial communities will be extended even further to ensure a favourable business climate. As the economy continues to gain momentum, the private sector will be able increasingly to provide jobs for those Canadians in need of them. The Government will nevertheless redouble its efforts to make sure that as many jobs as possible are available and that the fullest possible use is made of the skills and initiatives of those who are seeking work. It will at the same time continue to exert its influence to prevent the erosion of incomes through the maintenance of reasonably stable prices of the goods and services required by Canadians.

Our economy is dependent, as are the economies of all industrialized countries, on the imagination of entrepreneurs and their use of research and innovation, as well as upon a rational industrial strategy. You will be informed in months to come of government proposals for improved policies in these areas which will be of immense importance to the long term development of our country: of policies for the use of science and technology designed to contribute not only to industry but to the qualitative improvement of the life of Canadians, of an industrial strategy prepared for the peculiar character of the Canadian economy. The basis of each will be spelled out as the session proceeds.

For more than a decade an issue which has attracted increasing interest and growing debate in this country has been that of the control of our economic environment. The debate has emphasized the dual aspects of Canada's identity and of economic benefit for Canadians. Further steps will be taken towards the resolution of this issue.

These policy proposals have been designed with a blend of realism and imagination, as Canada itself was designed more than a century ago. They are intended to permit this country to attain a degree of leadership and independence in selected fields of

endeavour while reducing overall Canadian vulnerability to events both expected and unexpected from beyond our shores.

A further imperative in the structuring of strong, internationally competitive industry is the development of a modern and workable competition policy. The development of such a policy, designed to achieve an efficient and innovative economy, capable of rapid growth and dynamic change, must proceed through consultation with all sectors of Canadian society. During the coming weeks the Government will continue this consultative process and will place before Parliament a revised policy reflecting the informed and constructive comments received and assistance gained.

A major factor in the strength of the Canadian economy is provided by exports. The Government will pursue vigorously the initiatives it has taken throughout the world to develop and maintain Canadian markets. Those advantages already gained by ministerial missions to other countries will be enlarged in a number of ways. One of these will involve the provision of better credit facilities. The private financial sector will be encouraged to involve itself increasingly in export financing. The Government will continue to develop programmes to strengthen secondary industry. Closer scientific and technological co-operation with other countries can be expected. Trade negotiations will seek to enlarge opportunities for Canadian manufacturers and the consultative machinery with the European Economic Community and its member states will be strengthened. Negotiations will continue with the United States so as to extend the benefits gained by each member of the world's most important trading partnership.

Policies designed to promote a related, yet distinct, sector of the economy—tourism, will be revealed in coming weeks.

A basic building block in the growth of Canada's national wealth has been the performance of our resource and energy industries. Over the years they have opened new frontiers and stimulated the development of the sinews and muscles of Canada; they have accumulated capital for reinvestment, enhanced the scientific and technical skills of Canadians, and accounted for a healthy export surplus. A continuation and strengthening of government-industry relations is necessary in order that such areas of challenge as environmental impact and the increasing demand both within Canada and abroad for resources and energy be fully addressed.

The competitive requirements for northern development will continue to be recognized; development will not be permitted at the expense of the northern peoples and the northern environment. To ensure the involvement of the residents of the north, and their participation in the design of their own future, there will be continued support for the development of local government in the northern territories.

Canada's primary food producers—our farmers and our fishermen—form one of the traditional and still basic strengths of our economy. Their continued productivity and livelihood is of immense importance to the Government and to the country. Improvements and achievements of the past several months will be strengthened and continued. Measures already undertaken and which have substantially improved prices to fishermen—upwards of 50 percent in some cases—will be extended, ensuring that the benefits of price support for fish products go to the fishermen themselves. Wheat farmers will be assured of an increased return equivalent to the higher price for wheat consumed as food by Canadians. To avoid distortions in food prices, the cost of this programme will be borne by the Treasury rather than by the consumer; to avoid distortions in production, a formula for distribution will be proposed which relates payments to grain acreage rather than to actual wheat production. The Government will assist further the position of farmers and fishermen through the implementation of several programmes. It proposes the establishment of new national marketing agencies and the implementation of a small farm development programme. The recent extensions of fisheries closing lines will permit the Government to engage more actively in the management of its marine resources so as to increase the supply of fish available to Canadian fishermen in the waters off our coasts.

Both the effectiveness and the quality of any programme for the provision of services to Canadians depends increasingly upon a