

PRAYERS.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Secretary to the Governor General, as follows:—

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY, CANADA

OTTAWA, 7th March, 1945.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the Main Entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 3 p.m. on Monday the 19th March, 1945, and when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Sixth Session of the Nineteenth Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. S. REDFERN,

Secretary to the Governor General.

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate,
Ottawa.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the Table.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

After a while, His Excellency the Governor General having come, and being seated on the Throne,—

The Honourable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that,—

It is His Excellency the Governor General's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate Chamber.

The House of Commons being come,

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

You have been called into session for the despatch of business which it is in the national interest to conclude before the expiration of the present Parliament.

Since I last addressed you, the war in Europe and in Asia has continued with relentless fury. In Europe, the Allied forces are rapidly advancing to what there is every reason to believe will be decisive victory. Canada is prouder than ever of the splendid achievements of her fighting forces, at sea, on land, and in the air.

The government has accepted the invitation to Canada to send representatives to a Conference of the United Nations to be held on April 25th, at San Francisco, to prepare a charter for a general international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security. My Ministers are of the opinion that the Canadian delegation at the San Francisco Conference should be assured of the widest possible measures of support from Parliament. A joint resolution of both Houses will accordingly be submitted for your approval.

Members of the House of Commons:

The term of the present Parliament will have expired on April 17th. A general election will be held shortly thereafter. You will be asked to make the necessary financial provisions for the effective conduct of the war, and to meet the ordinary expenses of government, for the period between the end of the present fiscal year and the opening of a new Parliament.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence guide your deliberations in this solemn moment in the history of the world.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Senator King presented to the Senate a Bill intituled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read the first time.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that a copy of the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General had been left in his hands.

The same was read by the Honourable the Speaker.

On motion, it was—

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration on Wednesday next.