
The government has concluded new air agreements with the United Kingdom and the United States. The agreements provide new routes for our international air services to the United States and to the Orient, and additional traffic stops in United States and United Kingdom territory for our present international services on the North Atlantic, to the Caribbean and to the South Pacific.

Measures demanding your consideration will include a Bill respecting a National Trade Mark and True Labelling; a Bill respecting Forest Conservation; a Bill to incorporate the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation; a Bill respecting assistance to the shipbuilding industry and merchant shipping; a Bill to extend the life of the Export and Import Permits Act; and Bills to amend the Exchequer Court Act, the Industrial Development Bank Act, the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act, the Prairie Farm Assistance Act, the Customs Act, and the Veterans' Land Act of 1942.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to make provision for the public service for the current fiscal year. The budget resolutions introduced at the last Session of Parliament will be submitted for your approval and the enactment of the appropriate legislation.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I pray that Divine Providence may bless your deliberations.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The Senate was resumed.

The Honourable Senator Copp, for the Honourable Senator Robertson, 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 Tuesday, next.

The hopes held four years ago for world peace and security under the aegis of the United Nations have not yet been realized. The menace of Communist totalitarianism continues to threaten the aspirations of men of good will. It is, however, gratifying that the North Atlantic Treaty has been brought into effect and is already proving its worth in lessening the risks of armed aggression.

The defence needs of Canada both as a separate nation and as a signatory of this Treaty are being kept constantly under review. Good progress has been made in the co-ordination and unification of our armed forces and conditions of service are being improved. Special attention is being given to research and development intended to provide the forces with the most modern equipment suitable for present requirements.

A measure will be introduced to consolidate the legislation respecting the defence forces and the Department of National Defence.

It is the view of my Ministers that the economic health and stability of the nations of the North Atlantic community must be the real foundation of their ability to resist and, therefore, to deter aggression.

Although the nations of Western Europe have made substantial progress towards recovery from the ravages of war, they have not yet been able to restore completely their economic strength. Their shortage of dollars continues, and international trade remains in a state of unbalance. The government is seeking by all appropriate means to co-operate in measures to restore economic equilibrium. The achievement of a pattern of world trade in which the trading nations can operate together within one single multilateral system continues to be the ultimate aim of my government.

Since Parliament last met the International Wheat Agreement has come into operation. The Agreement together with the other arrangements made to dispose of our surplus agricultural products will provide additional economic security for many of our farmers.

At home we continue to enjoy prosperity. Agricultural production generally continues to be high. Private capital investment and employment have remained at high levels. Relations between employers and employees have, with few exceptions, been satisfactory.

As a result of legislation passed at the last session of Parliament, new agreements with respect to old age pensions have been completed with nine of the provinces, and increased pensions have now been made available to the aged and the blind in those provinces. The completion of a similar agreement with the Province of Newfoundland awaits the enactment of the required provincial legislation.

The continued co-operation of the provinces in the implementation of the National Health Program has resulted in further progress being made towards the desired objective of improved health facilities and services for the people in all parts of Canada.

While more housing units are being built this year than ever before the demand for housing continues. Following discussions with the governments of the provinces your approval will be sought for legislation to broaden the scope of the National Housing Act.

A Bill to provide for the continuance of functions now vested in the Department of Reconstruction and Supply, including the ministerial responsibility for the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will be placed before you for your approval.

You will also be asked to approve a measure to enable the government to assist in the provision of a trans-continental highway.

If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their King and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable interpretation

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate answered:—

MR. SPEAKER,—I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to His Majesty's Person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges. I am commanded also to assure you that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

His Excellency the Governor General was then 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:

There has been deep satisfaction in all parts of the country that the steady improvement in the health of the King has enabled His Majesty to resume most of his customary activities.

The opening of the twenty-first Parliament is marked by the presence for the first time of the representatives of the new province of Newfoundland. It is a pleasure for me to welcome their participation in the national affairs of a greater Canada.

With the admission of the new province of Newfoundland the Canadian nation attained the geographical limits planned by the Fathers of Confederation. You will be asked at the present session to approve measures designed to facilitate the attainment of the constitutional limits of our nationhood. To this end, a Bill will be introduced to amend the Supreme Court Act so that the Supreme Court of Canada will become the final court of appeal for Canada.

You will also be asked to approve addresses praying the Parliament of the United Kingdom to vest in the Parliament of Canada the right to amend the constitution of Canada in relation to matters not coming within the jurisdiction of the Legislatures of the provinces nor affecting the constitutional rights and privileges of the provinces or existing rights and privileges with respect to education or the use of the English and French languages.

My Ministers will seek to arrange for early consultation with the provincial governments with a view to agreeing upon an appropriate procedure for making within Canada such other amendments to the constitution as may from time to time be required.

is in readiness, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open formally the First Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. F. G. LETSON,

Secretary to the Governor General.

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate,
Ottawa.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the Table.

With leave of the Senate, and—

On motion, it was—

Ordered, That the Senate do stand adjourned until half-past two o'clock this afternoon.

The Senate adjourned.

SECOND SITTING

2.30 p.m.

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,

Their Speaker, the Honourable William Ross Macdonald, said:—

May it please Your Excellency,—

The House of Commons has elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.