

A Message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod:—

Mr. Speaker:

His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Chamber of the Honourable the Senate.

The House attended accordingly;

And being returned:

Mr. St. Laurent, by leave of the House, introduced a Bill, No. 1, An Act respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office, which was read the first time.

Mr. Speaker reported, that, when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a Speech to both Houses of Parliament, and to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy, which is as follows:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

As you resume your labours, our country is being honoured by the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. The public satisfaction at the speedy recovery of His Majesty the King which made possible the resumption of plans for the visit is heartening evidence of the deep attachment of the Canadian people to the Crown.

The primary reason for summoning you for a second session in the present year is to invite your consideration of a measure to provide increased security for our older citizens through payment of pensions, without a means test and as a matter of right, to all Canadians with appropriate residence qualifications who are over the age of seventy years, and to establish a fund made up of special contributions levied for that purpose.

Registration of all persons seventy years of age and over has been successfully undertaken, and administrative preparations have already been well advanced to ensure, once the necessary legislation has been approved, the prompt payment from January 1952 of pensions to all eligible persons. In the first year of its operation, it is estimated that more than seven hundred thousand persons will be eligible.

This measure for the well-being of our senior citizens is designed to complete the programme of old age security announced by my government at the session earlier in this present year when legislation was enacted to provide for a federal contribution to assistance to persons between the ages of sixty-five and seventy.

Our national effort to provide for the security of our country in co-operation with other peace-loving nations continues to receive the constant attention of my Ministers.

Full support is being given to the Canadian forces in Korea where they are giving distinguished service in the United Nations' action to defeat aggression.