

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to assure you that your words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

Then His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open parliament by a speech from the throne.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to state that the house having attended on His Excellency the Governor General in the Senate chamber, I informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker had fallen upon me, and, in your names, and on your behalf, I made the usual claim for your privileges, which His Excellency was pleased to confirm to you.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house 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. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

You will rejoice with me that the opening of the Twentieth Parliament of Canada comes at the moment of the victorious conclusion of the war.

It is just six years ago that Parliament met in special session in anticipation of a declaration of war. Since that time, war has been waged continuously, first against Germany, later also against Italy and Japan. From the very beginning, the resources of Canada and the utmost efforts of our people were committed to the fight for freedom and to the winning of victory.

One by one, the aggressor nations and their satellite states have suffered total defeat by the armed forces of the United Nations. All have been compelled to surrender unconditionally. The terms of surrender were signed by Italy on September 8, 1943; by Germany, on May 8 of the present year; and by Japan, on the eve of the present week. The month of August witnessed the devastating use of the atomic bomb against Japanese cities, and the entry of the U.S.S.R. into war against Japan. Thus the world-encircling conflict, the most terrible of wars in human history, was brought

to its close. Not only has victory been complete, it has been won over strongly organized and sinister forces working in combination in an attempt at world conquest and domination.

As you assemble at the opening of a new Parliament, I join with you in giving humble and grateful thanks to Divine Providence for the deliverance which His mercy has vouchsafed to the peoples of our own and other lands. We of this day and generation have been the witnesses of a mighty manifestation of the workings of the moral law which inexorably connects wrongdoing with retribution. It is as applicable to nations as to men.

In this titanic conflict between the forces of good and evil, it has been ours to behold the triumph of right and justice. In this victory, we find the assurance of the ultimate triumph of righteousness as we seek to bring into being a new order founded upon world security and social justice.

The victory over nazi and fascist tyranny in Europe and over Japanese militarism in Asia has been bought at a great price. As the appalling extent of the power of the forces of aggression and tyranny was revealed, the free peoples of the world slowly began to realize what they owe to the allied nations who first opposed the aggressors. To their heroic resistance and to the armed might of all the united nations, humanity owes not only its freedom, but everything which free men value and cherish most.

Our thoughts at this time are especially of the members of Canada's forces who have given their lives that victory might be ours and not our enemies'. The whole nation reverently bows its head in tribute to their sacrifice. At this hour our hearts share in special measure the hopes and expectations of those who yearn for the return of their loved ones, now liberated after three and a half years in Japanese prison camps. The deep sympathy of Canada is with all who have been bereaved, and with those who have suffered impairment of body or mind, imprisonment, privation or want.

It will be for history to record the magnitude of Canada's contribution in this global conflict. We rejoice that our armed forces have achieved so much in helping to defend and liberate nations to whose past and present our own is so closely akin. Our country will ever remember with pride the heroic exploits of Canada's fighting men and merchant seamen.

We pay tribute as well to the men and women without whose loyal and steady work on the farms, in forests, mines and fisheries, in factories, workshops and offices, in hospitals and homes, and in transport and other services, victory could not have been achieved. Canada's great contribution to victory has been made possible by the unbroken partnership of her warriors and her workers.

To all who have contributed by service and sacrifice to victory, I would, in the name of parliament, express our country's gratitude.

So far as the future could be foreseen, my ministers had taken steps to see that Canada was prepared to meet the very difficult situations which would arise when victory had been won. Under the authority of Parliament, relief was provided to assist in feeding, clothing and housing destitute populations, and in rehabilitating areas devastated by enemy action in