

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Tuesday, October 9, 1951

The Parliament of Canada having been summoned by Proclamation of the Governor General to meet this day for the dispatch of business:

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that His Excellency the Governor General would arrive at the Main Entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 3 p.m., and when it had been signified that all was in readiness, would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Fifth Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Fifth Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

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 program 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.

The North Atlantic nations are steadily increasing their combined strength in their determined effort to maintain peace by providing an effective deterrent to aggression in Europe. To this end an integrated force is being established under the command of General Eisenhower.

The plans for the dispatch to Europe of elements of the army and air force destined to form a part of the integrated force were announced at the last session. The measures which the government proposes at this time in furtherance of these plans will be communicated to you without delay.

You will be asked to approve the ratification of a protocol to enable an invitation to be extended to Greece and Turkey to join the North Atlantic Alliance; and to consider a bill relating to the Canadian Forces.

The concern of our people over the rising cost of living resulting from international and domestic inflationary pressures is fully shared by the government. Every measure will be taken which my ministers believe will be effective in counteracting inflation without impairing our free institutions. The anti-inflationary measures already in force have checked the upward trend of prices of goods and services affected by their operation.

The government has received an interim report from the committee studying the combines legislation recommending that suppliers of goods should be prohibited from requiring or inducing distributors to resell such goods at fixed or minimum resale prices. You will be asked to consider legislation arising out of the committee's interim report.

My Prime Minister has conferred recently with the President of the United States on the vital importance to the security and economies of both countries of proceeding as rapidly as possible with both the seaway and the power phases of the St. Lawrence project.

The President stated he would support Canadian action to construct the seaway as second best if an early commencement of the joint development does