

session may, however, be deferred by Proclamation from the day to which it stands summoned to any further day, but it cannot be called for an earlier date.

An Hon. Senator: So we are not here!

Senator Frith: I am sure that the Deputy Leader of the Government has an explanation for the fact that rather than our being present here today and, in accordance with the appendix to our rules, waiting for the House of Commons to elect a Speaker, and, following which, having Her Excellency the Governor General appear and read the Speech from the Throne, on this occasion we will be sitting twice prior to the formal opening, which is not in accord with our usual practice.

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for providing me with an opportunity to get on the record.

As to the reasoning and rationale behind the calling of Parliament today, while it is true that citation 194 of *Beauchesne's* as quoted by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has been quoted accurately, the officials in both the other place and here in researching the matter could find nothing to substantiate that particular statement, other than the fact that it is written in *Beauchesne's*.

Senator Frith: Which has been known to be enough.

Senator Doody: Which has been known to be argued, quarrelled over and questioned from time to time by honourable senators and others. However, the researchers were successful in finding a reference in the twentieth edition of *Erskine May* which is more fitting to the occasion.

Senator Frith: More profitable in any event!

Senator Doody: The paragraph is entitled "Meeting of Parliament accelerated during prorogation." It reads:

Just as the Queen is empowered to postpone the meeting of Parliament, so authority is vested in her to accelerate its meeting.

(1) *Generally.* When Parliament stands prorogued to a certain day, the Queen may, by the Meeting of Parliament Act 1797 as amended by the Meeting of Parliament Act 1870 and section 34 of the Parliament (Elections and Meeting) Act 1943, issue a proclamation, giving notice of her intention that Parliament shall meet for the dispatch of business on any day after the date of the proclamation; and Parliament then stands prorogued to that day, notwithstanding the previous prorogation.

Erskine May goes on to cite several occasions when this has occurred,

—Parliament was assembled in September 1799; and again on 12 December 1854 Parliament then standing prorogued to the 14th; and in 1857 in consequence of the suspension of the Bank Act of 1844, a proclamation was issued on 16 November assembling Parliament on 3 December. In 1900 the new Parliament which had been prorogued from 1 November, the day for which it had been summoned, to 10 December was summoned to meet for the dispatch of business on 3 December by a proclamation dated 26 November. In 1921 Parliament, which had been prorogued until 30 January 1922, was summoned to meet on 14 December by a proclamation dated 7 December.

So precedent was found in Westminster for the calling of Parliament prior to the date mentioned in the prorogation, and the citation of Erskine May covers it adequately.

Senator Frith: I think it is important that we have that on the record. Just to complete the record, perhaps the deputy leader could say officially for the record whether there has been such a proclamation in this case.

Senator Doody: Indeed there has.

Hon. H.A. Olson: Honourable senators, there is more to this peculiar little story than has been laid before the Senate. We might as well stop looking back 100 years or more for precedents. The reason we are here is because there is a precedent-setting procedure taking place in the other place today—that of having the members elect their Speaker. Of course, when Parliament is summoned for a prorogation, it is not only the House of Commons that is summoned; both houses of Parliament are summoned.

Senator Argue: All members of Parliament!

Senator Olson: Yes. I hope that this fact puts an end to the problem I have been having with some of my colleagues in this chamber, arising from the question as to whether or not we are members of Parliament.

Senator Argue: Hear, hear!

Senator Olson: Some of my colleagues have accepted this fact for a long time. My own business cards are printed with "P.C., M.P." after my name. Of course, the "P.C." stands for "Privy Councillor," not "Progressive Conservative." I invite all other members to have their business cards printed accordingly.

Motion agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until tomorrow at 11.30 a.m.