

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, January 28, 1943

FOURTH SESSION—NINETEENTH PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued on the twenty-seventh day of January, 1943, met this day at Ottawa for the dispatch of business.

The house met at three o'clock, the Speaker the Honourable James Allison Glen, in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's secretary, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three p.m. on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate chamber.

And the house having returned to the Commons chamber:

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:

As you enter upon your duties at the beginning of this new year, you will be heartened by the improved position of the united nations.

In the first year of war, most of the countries of Europe lost their freedom and became the victims of nazi occupation and oppression. In the second year, Italy, already at war, joined her power with that of Germany in an effort to seize new territories in Africa, as well as in Europe. In the third year, Japan entered the world conflict in the expectation of becoming the master of the orient. These actions disclosed the pre-arranged schedule of world domination planned by the axis powers. Each, at the appointed time, sprang upon its unoffending neighbours.

During these years, the nations which were attacked, and others still enjoying freedom, were necessarily on the defensive. For three years, the free nations continued to gather strength, at the same time affording such mutual aid, one to the other, as opportunity permitted.

In their attempt at world conquest, the forces of aggression still continue their campaigns of terror and violence. The world scene, however, has vastly changed from what it was a year ago. Enemy forces, everywhere, have been halted by stubborn and successful resistance. In many parts of the world, the allied powers have taken the offensive.

At Casablanca, in North Africa, a meeting, unprecedented in history, has just been concluded between the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the President of the United States. During their conference, they were in communication with the Premier of the Soviet Union and the Generalissimo of China. At the conference, the leaders of Great Britain and the United States, both military and civil, agreed on a war plan for 1943 designed to maintain the initiative in every theatre of war.

In the western hemisphere, the peoples now present a virtually united front against the axis powers.

The government has maintained close relations with the nations with which Canada is united in the common struggle. Direct diplomatic representation has strengthened our relations with China and the Soviet Union, and with the several allied governments now temporarily resident in the United Kingdom. The establishment of diplomatic missions to nations of the Americas is broadening the friendly relations between those countries and Canada.

Our armed forces are on active service in all parts of the world. Their strength has been steadily increased. They are equipped with the most modern and efficient weapons of war. In actual combat, they have served with distinction and gallantry.

In the present year, the progressive expansion of the navy will be continued. The army program will include the maintenance and reinforcement of the overseas army of two corps, and the maintenance of units and formations required for the territorial and coastal