

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, February 17, 1972

## FOURTH SESSION—TWENTY-EIGHTH

### PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The Parliament which had been prorogued on the sixteenth day of February, 1972, met this day at Ottawa for the dispatch of business.

The House met at ten-thirty o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Secretary to the Governor General, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at 10.35 a.m. on this day for the purpose of formally opening the fourth session of the twenty-eighth Parliament of Canada.

A message was delivered by Major A. G. Vandelay, 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, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

• (1140)

And the House being returned to the Commons chamber:

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### OATHS OF OFFICE

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (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.

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• (1150)

[English]

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

**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:*

This reunion of your two Houses with the Representative of the Crown marks the beginning of the 4th Session of the 28th Parliament of Canada.

Before proceeding to the business of the new Session I should like to thank you in the name of our Queen and on behalf of all Canadians for your efforts and accomplishments during the long 3rd Session which began the 8th of October 1970 and was concluded only yesterday.

During that period there was a continuing celebration of centennials connected with the foundation of the Canadian Confederation. Manitoba and the Northwest Territories concluded ceremonies which marked the 100th anniversary of their incorporation into the Dominion. The admission of British Columbia, which gave Canada its place on the Pacific Ocean, was commemorated in 1971 with much enthusiasm and a multitude of ceremonies and projects. As in the year before, our gracious Queen and other members of the Royal Family marked the event with an extensive tour, much to the delight of British Columbians and Canadians generally.

It gave my wife and me much satisfaction to take official part on several occasions in the British Columbia celebrations, as well as to travel abroad on behalf of Canada to The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Iran, in response to invitations from the heads of these States so well disposed towards Canada.

Since last I addressed you some 16 months ago, events in Canada and elsewhere have continued to demonstrate the turbulence of this age of changing values and shifting attitudes. We have witnessed with sadness outbursts of violence beyond our shores as despairing men and women have chosen to settle their differences through the use of force, extending in some cases to actual war. We have witnessed as well a period of international economic uncertainty which affected all of the industrialized nations of the world and which has made us increasingly aware of our dependence on a strong economic base in the pursuit of our social goals.

We learned in months gone by that Canada was not immune from internal pressures. In October, 1970 one of the most difficult national challenges in many years was met calmly, with discipline, and with the strong support of the people of Canada. There were sad moments but there were also memorable examples of resoluteness and courage.

More recently, we learned from another type of challenge, this time of an economic nature and coming from without rather than within, that Canada and Canadians possessed the stamina and the resilience to overcome this form of adversity as well.

Throughout, pressures for change around the world emphasized to us that the excitement and the promise of modern technological achievements become hollow and mocking to those who find in society little understanding of their hopes and little provision for their needs. In a period dominated by bigness, in an increasingly impersonal social system, one of the major challenges facing government is to remove the impression of isolation which so often surrounds men and women, depriving them of their sense of worth, of accomplishment, of fulfilment, and removing from them their identity as individuals.

Isolation takes many forms in Canada—physical distance, social stigma, economic deprivation. In each of those forms it represents a degree of rejection, of exclusion, of estrangement. This country fails in its essential purpose if it does not ensure that its most precious resource, human talent, is not wasted away. Our challenge is to remove the barriers that create isolation, to permit each Canadian to detect—even if not always able to fulfil—his own potential, to ensure that his image of Canada is one of promise and compassion.