

APPENDIX

REMARKS BY PRIME MINISTER AT THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY
OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, THE SENATE APRIL 17, 1967

Your Excellency, it is my privilege as Prime Minister, and it is indeed my pleasure, to extend to you on behalf of the people and the government of Canada our warmest good wishes as you assume the high and honourable office of Governor General of Canada.

May I respectfully request, Your Excellency, as your first official duty as the Queen's representative in Canada, that you convey to Her Majesty a message of loyalty and devotion from the Canadian people. Please assure her how delighted we are that our Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will be with us on the 1st of July to celebrate the centennial of our Confederation.

You begin your office, sir, at an historic moment. Throughout the one hundred years of our history as a Confederation, the post of Governor General has been filled by men of distinction who have all contributed significantly to the development of Canada and to the achievement of the proud position which we are celebrating throughout this centennial year.

(Translation)

We have been made more aware of the opportunities and the burden of your great office by the unexcelled contribution which your immediate predecessor made to the lasting benefit of all the people of this land. His memory will be treasured and his service to Canada will never be forgotten and I am sure that his life and work will be an inspiration to you as you take up your heavy duties.

(English)

We all realize, sir, how especially heavy these duties are in our centennial year. It is yet another evidence of your willingness to serve your country that you readily consented to become Her Majesty's representative in Canada knowing that you and your wife would immediately be faced with a most demanding programme of engagements. We have no doubt, sir, that you will meet the challenges of this great office with the same skill and wisdom and calm good humour that you have met the other challenges that

have faced you throughout your varied career; even, if I may add, going far back into the years when I used to pass a puck to you on the right wing, or was it the left wing, and you were expected to score a goal.

We remember well your distinguished performance when you occupied the chair in that other place and "never sold the truth to serve the hour". Although tradition will now bar you from attending there, I assure you, sir, that your reputation is secure as one of the very best and most honoured of our "first commoners".

You were, of course, no stranger to public service. It has been in the tradition of your family. Your father is remembered as a member of this very Chamber where we are now gathered. You yourself, until a few days ago when you received the Queen's summons to represent Her Majesty in Canada, were serving half way around the world as the High Commissioner of Canada to India. There you have been able to test the strength and fabric of our Commonwealth of Nations. At the same time you were the Canadian Ambassador to Nepal and in the clear light of the far Himalayas, you may have seen your country, its problems and its future in a new and different perspective.

Tennyson's lines, I believe, fit well your career,

"Much has he seen and known; cities of men,
And manners, climates, councils, governments,
Himself not least, but honoured of them all".

Through all this you have been accompanied and aided by your wife whose qualities of heart and mind have earned her an enviable reputation and the esteem of all who know her.

Your Excellency, you begin your term of office as Her Majesty's representative in Canada with the best wishes of us all. We welcome you with great goodwill. Que Dieu vous garde. May God's grace and help be with you.