

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

● (4:00 p.m.)

Monday, May 8, 1967

### SECOND SESSION—TWENTY SEVENTH PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued on the eighth day of May, 1967, met later this day at Ottawa for the dispatch of business.

The house met at four 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 four o'clock on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, 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.

● (5:20 p.m.)

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

### OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

### 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:*

As my words are being broadcast throughout Canada I should like to begin on a personal note. I

want to say that I am deeply conscious of the possibilities for good for Canada of my new office and duty—that which brings me here today to open the Centennial Session of Parliament. May I renew my pledge at the ceremony of Installation: that my sole purpose and effort will be to merit the confidence which had been reposed in me by Her Majesty our Queen on the advice of her Canadian Ministers and by the countless Canadians from every region who have so freely offered their good wishes. My wife and I are deeply grateful for such messages and greatly encouraged by them.

On this occasion we feel again the sadness of our loss in the recent death of His Excellency General Georges Vanier, my much beloved predecessor. His courageous and lifelong devotion to all that is good and honourable sets an example to inspire all Canadians.

The careers of my two distinguished Canadian predecessors have added to the traditional and constitutional functions of the Governor General as the representative of Her Majesty the Queen of Canada, that of representing the Canadian people in a broad range of their activities and attitudes. In this role I shall try to encourage the best features of our national life, in all its diversity, and to symbolize the unity and continuity of the Canadian people as expressed in their federal institutions.

With you, I look forward this summer to the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family. The presence of our Sovereign and the Heads of State of other countries will bring added joy and festivity to our land as it celebrates the centennial of its Confederation.

This Centennial Session of Parliament provides an opportunity to begin to give effect to our aspirations for the second century of Confederation.

The weak colonies joined together in 1867 have grown today into a prosperous and dynamic country. That so much could have been accomplished in the face of great difficulties is a tribute to the courage, determination and faith in human progress of countless Canadian men and women of all origins. It is also a tribute to the wisdom and foresight of the Fathers of Confederation who created the constitutional framework without which much of this progress would have been impossible.

Our country was not founded in 1867. It is far more deeply rooted in time than that. But, one hundred years ago, our predecessors—men of many races, creeds and tongues—embarked upon a great exercise in statecraft of which we, today, are the trustees. They laid the foundations. They anchored them in a fundamental sense of unity that generations of conflict had taught was vital to the common weal. With this realization they erected a structure of government for the freedom, welfare, and prosperity of all who might come in time to inhabit this land. They built according to a federal plan because they knew that unity, with cultural and regional diversity could be harnessed to a positive and enriching rôle in no other way.