The Clerk at the Table informed the Senate that the Honourable the Speaker was unavoidably absent.

The Honourable Senator Deschatelets, P.C., moved, seconded by the Honourable Senator Flynn, P.C.:—

That, during the absence of the Honourable the Speaker, the Honourable Senator Bourget, P.C., do preside as Speaker.

The question of concurrence being put thereon, the Clerk declared the motion carried in the affirmative.

Whereupon the Honourable Senator Bourget, P.C., took the Chair.

PRAYERS.

A Message was brought from the House of Commons by their Clerk in the following words:—

FRIDAY, March 8, 1968.

Resolved,—That a Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament be appointed to examine the progress and programs of the National Capital Commission in the development, conservation and improvement of the National Capital Region;

That twelve Members to act on behalf of the House of Commons as

Members of the said Committee be designated at a later date;

That the said Committee have power to call for persons, papers and records, to sit while the House is sitting, and to report from time to time;

That the said Committee have power to print such papers and evidence from day to day as may be ordered by the Committee and that Standing Order 66 be suspended in relation thereto;

Ordered,—That a Message be sent to the Senate requesting that House to unite with this House for the above purpose and to select, if the Senate deems advisable, some of its Members to act on the proposed Joint Committee.

Attest.

ALISTAIR FRASER, The Clerk of the House of Commons.

The Honourable Senator Deschatelets, P.C., moved, seconded by the Honourable Senator Power, P.C., that the Message be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the Senate.

The question being put on the motion, it was—Resolved in the affirmative.

A Message was brought from the House of Commons by their Clerk with a Bill C-202, intituled: "An Act to amend the National Housing Act, 1954", to which they desire the concurrence of the Senate.

The Bill was read the first time.

With leave of the Senate,

The Honourable Senator Langlois moved, seconded by the Honourable Senator Cameron, that the Bill be read the second time now.