

*Honourable Members of the Senate,
Members of the House of Commons,
May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.*

[Translation]

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister) moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General delivered this day from the throne to the two houses of parliament, be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the house.

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. Lewis: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for York South.

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I rise to raise a matter in relation to the traditional motion which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) has just placed before the House. The debate on the Speech from the Throne, sir, is obviously important, particularly in this parliament. However, in the past few weeks the conscience of the world has been shocked by the resumption of the bombing of North Viet Nam by United States forces.

It is in this connection, Sir, that I wish to suggest to the Prime Minister, through you, that the first order of business tomorrow, before the mover and seconder of his motion speak, should be the presentation and adoption of a resolution on the Viet Nam situation. I would hope that the Prime Minister himself, or the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), would present it to the House. I offer him the full co-operation of this party in expediting the adoption of such a resolution with the least possible debate. I am encouraged to make this suggestion by news reports that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has expressed the hope or intention that an appropriate resolution may come before parliament.

We believe, Mr. Speaker, as we said in a statement yesterday, that it is the duty of this parliament, at the earliest possible moment to express its abhorrence of the destruction already produced and to appeal to the President and Congress of the United States to end unconditionally all bombing in North and South Viet Nam, to sign the treaty negotiated last fall and to bring an end to all military action on both sides. I urge, Mr. Speaker, that precisely because of our country's long-standing friendship with the United States we have a duty to speak out. The recent bombing was barbaric in its severity and in its inhuman destruction of heavily populated urban centres in Viet Nam. I suggest that this parliament cannot in conscience ignore the misery and destruction to which the Vietnamese people have been subjected.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I draw the attention of members of this House to the fact that last fall the hopes of the world for peace in Indo-China were raised and then were brutally shattered by the bombing. I urge on behalf of my colleagues and myself that we add the voice of this parliament to those of the many nations, and indeed to the voices of the growing numbers in the Congress as well as among the people of the United States itself, in a demand

Speech from the Throne

that the senseless and cruel war in Indo-China be brought to an end immediately.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the government, of course, is aware of the very deep importance of this question and has already made its views known to some of the people at various levels engaged in the peace negotiations. It is the intention of the government to have this matter debated in the House and, indeed, a motion has been presented on behalf of the government by the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp), notice of which has already been given to the table. We, of course, are very agreeable that this motion be debated at a time found opportune by all parties in this House. Our suggestion, Mr. Speaker, would be that this matter could be discussed between the House leaders of the various parties. It would seem that we might make progress on both fronts if we could, for instance, proceed tomorrow with the speeches by the mover and seconder and subsequently, later in the day, proceed with the discussion on this motion if the House wants to give its consent. I repeat, we have already given notice to the table but the usual rules would apply unless there were consent to proceed at once.

Mr. Lewis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire whether we could see a copy of the motion to which the Prime Minister has referred today, although it may not be printed, so that our House leaders may try to assist in the expedition of the discussion of that motion. It really makes no difference to us whether it is before or after the mover and seconder to the address have spoken.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: Before I call on the hon. member for Peace River (Mr. Baldwin), who I see wants to rise on this matter, perhaps I could advise the hon. member for York South that it would be quite easy to have copies made of the said notice and have them distributed through the usual distribution service of the House of Commons later today.

Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, I simply want to say that we would like to look at the motion and review our position in light of this apparently well prepared and well orchestrated duet to which we have listened today.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: The motion has been put to the House. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Carried.
Motion agreed to.