

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, December 12, 1988

FIRST SESSION—THIRTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

[English]

The Thirty-third Parliament having been dissolved by proclamation on Saturday, October 1, 1988, and writs having been issued and returned, a new Parliament was summoned to meet for the dispatch of business on Monday, December 12, 1988, and did accordingly meet on that day.

Monday, December 12, 1988

This being the day on which Parliament was convoked by proclamation of Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada for the dispatch of business, and the Members of the House being assembled:

Robert Marleau, Esquire, Clerk of the House of Commons, read to the House a letter from the Administrative Secretary to the Governor General informing him that the Right Honourable Brian Dickson, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the first session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament of Canada on Monday, the twelfth day of December, at Ottawa.

A message was delivered by The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Members of the House of Commons:

It is the desire of the Honourable the Deputy to Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada that this honourable House attend him immediately in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, the House went up to the Senate Chamber, where the Speaker of the Senate said:

Honourable Members of the Senate, Members of the House of Commons:

I have it in command to let you know that Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada does not see fit to declare the causes of her summoning the present Parliament of Canada until a Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen, according to law; but this afternoon at the hour of four o'clock, Her Excellency will declare the causes of her calling Parliament.

And the House being returned to the Commons Chamber:

[Translation]

The Clerk of the House: Pursuant to Standing Order 3, I would ask Mr. Prud'homme, Member for the electoral constituency of Saint-Denis, to take the chair and preside over the election of a Speaker.

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HUMAN SOLIDARITY

VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN ARMENIA

The President of the Election (Mr. Prud'homme): Dear colleagues, I happen to know that before proceeding with any strictly political activity I would meet your wish by asking you to make a humanitarian gesture concerning the unfortunate Armenian people.

In acknowledgement of the fact that human solidarity transcends Parties, countries, and even régimes, giving all men and women on earth every reason to hope, let us observe one minute of silence.

[English]

Would you now kindly rise for a minute of silence.

[Editor's Note: Whereupon the House stood in silence.]

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ELECTION OF SPEAKER

HON. JOHN A. FRASER, MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF VANCOUVER SOUTH

[Translation]

The Presiding Officer (Mr. Prud'homme): Pursuant to the provisions of the Standing Orders the House will now proceed with the election of a Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Dan Heap (Trinity—Spadina): Although I had signed and sent in my withdrawal form, I did not have