

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I welcome you to the second session of the twenty-sixth Parliament of Canada.

This is a time when it is possible, despite our many problems, to deliberate on Canadian and world affairs in a spirit of reasoned hopefulness.

My Government will attempt to make its full contribution to the maintenance of peace and the improvement of international relations; to the strengthening of our national unity through a co-operative federalism; to fostering the full employment of our people and the efficient growth of our economy; and to broadening the opportunities for a good life which should be open to all Canadians.

We are looking forward to the visit this autumn of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. The presence of the Queen of Canada will mark for our country the historic occasion of the interprovincial conferences on confederation; it will also re-emphasise the importance we attach to the Commonwealth, through which so much can be done to advance understanding and co-operation in this increasingly interdependent world.

We recently had great pleasure in welcoming to Ottawa the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, with whom many matters of mutual concern were fruitfully discussed.

Since the close of the last session of Parliament, my Prime Minister has visited France and the United States. His friendly discussions with the President of the Republic of France will help to encourage an increasingly intimate relationship between France and Canada.

The unique partnership of Canada and the United States was symbolized in the signing by the President and the Prime Minister of an agreement by which the two countries become, for the first time, joint owners of property in what is to be the Roosevelt-Campobello International Park. You will be asked to approve legislation implementing this agreement.

A protocol signed during the Prime Minister's visit to Washington will make the Columbia River Treaty a basis for developments of great advantage to both countries. This was made possible by successful negotiations between my Ministers and the Government of British Columbia. You will be asked to examine and approve the Columbia River Treaty and the protocol.

Canada will this year be taking part in important trade and tariff negotiations. My Ministers will negotiate for the expansion of markets for Canadian exports through the liberalization of world trade.

In the conduct of external affairs, my Government will continue to work for the conciliation of international differences and for practical steps toward adequately controlled disarmament. Such steps depend on keeping the defences of the free world strong. My Government will submit for your approval a statement of a new defence policy designed to maintain an effective Canadian contribution to keeping the peace in co-operation with our allies.

At home there has been a heartening expansion of the economy. Employment has increased at an accelerated rate and the number of Canadians seeking