

an broadcasting system and renew our commitment to Canadian cultural values.

To a considerable degree, our sense of national purpose, our national identity, and our economic prosperity will depend on our capacity to respond to the opportunities which flow from this new information age.

Our dual linguistic heritage and unique history situate Canada within two great communities of nations, the Commonwealth and la Francophonie.

Canada is thus positioned to reaffirm its role in the world by developing joint projects with member countries of these two vast families of nations, to share with them Canadian communications and information technologies while bringing to Canadians a greater diversity of ideas and cultural expressions. By so doing, Canada will renew in innovative ways its commitment to an established institution, the Commonwealth, and contribute actively to the emergence of a new one, la Francophonie.

The great tasks to which you are committed in this Parliament are national in character. The important reforms you will have considered and adopted give to each the opportunity to make a valued, individual contribution to the legislative process.

Your deliberations must address the aspirations of all Canadians and reflect their pride and confidence in the enduring strengths of the political institutions they believe to be the guarantors of freedom and security, and the guardians of the nation's future.

My government shares the expectations of all Canadians that public office holders maintain the highest standards of conduct, especially in the area of conflict of interest. It will be considering proposals which reflect the essential considerations of fairness to the office holder and the protection of the public's interest.

Members of the House of Commons:

I think with pleasure of the determination you will display as you embark on the program of work prepared by my government, and of the good use you will make of your skill and experience. I shall follow your debates with interest. I am assured that this new session will mark a further stage in the growth and flowering of our life as a nation.

You will be asked to appropriate the funds required to carry on the services and expenditures authorized by Parliament.

Honourable Members of the Senate,

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to consider legislation to advance the economic, social and international interests of Canadians.

In pursuit of these worthy objectives, may Divine Providence guide your efforts.

The House of Commons withdrew.

Her Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

RAILWAYS BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government) presented Bill S-1, relating to railways.

Bill read first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONSIDERATION NEXT SITTING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to inform you that Her Excellency the Governor General has caused to be placed in my hands a copy of her Speech delivered this day from the Throne to the two houses of Parliament. It is as follows—

Hon. Senators: Dispense.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, when shall this Speech be taken into consideration?

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government) moved:

That the Speech of Her 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 Senate.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE ON ORDERS AND CUSTOMS

APPOINTMENT

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government) moved:

That all the senators present during this session be appointed a committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION

APPOINTMENT

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government) moved:

That pursuant to rule 66(1), the following senators, to wit: the Honourable Senators Cottreau, Denis, Doody, Frith, Lapointe, Macdonald (*Cape Breton*), Nurgitz,