

Then the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons addressed the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General as follows:—

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

“The Commons of Canada have voted Supplies required to enable the Government to defray certain expenses of the Public Service.

“In the name of the Commons I present to Your Honour the following Bill:—

“An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the Public Service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1950.”

“To which Bill I humbly request Your Honour’s Assent.”

To this Bill the Clerk of the Senate, by command of the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, did thereupon say:—

“In His Majesty’s name, the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General thanks his loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this Bill.”

After which the Right Honourable the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the First Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of the Dominion of Canada, with the following Speech:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

Since the opening of the present session of Parliament you have approved measures required for the discharge of the constitutional responsibilities of our nationhood. As a result the Supreme Court of Canada will shortly become the final court of appeal for Canada.

In response to your address the Parliament of the United Kingdom has amended the British North America Act to vest in the Parliament of Canada the power to make amendments to the constitution of Canada in matters which are exclusively of federal concern.

Early in the New Year a Conference with representatives of the provincial governments will be held for the purpose of working out a satisfactory procedure for making within Canada such other amendments to the constitution as may from time to time be required.

Our country continues to take an active part in the proceedings of the United Nations. Despite that organization’s present inability to solve the major political problem confronting mankind, the United Nations has succeeded in coping with menacing situations in many parts of the world. At the current session of the General Assembly, Canada was elected to the Economic and Social Council.

It is gratifying that the agencies under the North Atlantic Treaty have been established and are undertaking the tasks which have been assigned to them.

My Ministers are giving constant attention to the defence needs of Canada. The consideration of the measure to consolidate existing legislation respecting our defence forces has not been completed. This measure will be re-introduced at your next session.