

## APPENDIX II

### FORMS AND PROCEEDINGS

(The forms and proceedings described in this Appendix are not rules of the Senate. They are, however, evidence of modern Senate practice and, for convenience, are included in this volume as a source of information on the customs, usages, forms and proceedings of the Senate referred to in Rule 1.)

#### OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

The historic and impressive ceremonials attending the Opening of a new Parliament of Canada are in their essentials based on those followed by the Parliament at Westminster. There are some exceptions attributable to circumstances peculiar to Canada; for example, the Queen's role at a Canadian Opening is usually exercised by the Governor General, who is Her Majesty's personal representative in Canada.

The following is a general summary of the main sequence of events. Officials or students who are interested in a more detailed description of the ceremonies are referred to the Forms and Proceedings appended to the Senate Rules as amended to January, 1973.

The Opening ceremonies are accomplished in two consecutive but distinct sittings held on the same day. These sittings are now considered in order.

#### **First Distinct Sitting Prior to Opening of Parliament**

The Senate meets at the call of the bell, at least thirty minutes before the hour named for the opening of Parliament. Since the Senators have not been officially informed of the appointment of a new Speaker of the Senate, there is no Speaker's procession.

The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod takes his place to the left of the Throne, facing west. The Assistant Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod enters via the northeast door of the Senate chamber bearing the mace and proceeds to the south side of the Clerk's table. He turns, facing the throne, and stands the mace on the floor. The Clerk occupies the chair on the east side of the table and the Clerk Assistant the one on the west side. The new Speaker, capped and gowned, enters the chamber through the northeast door and occupies the Clerk's chair at the head of the table. When the senators have taken their seats and the doors have been closed, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod calls "Order". The new Speaker then rises, places his hat on the table, and, holding his commission in his hand, says:

Honourable Senators:

I have the honour to inform the Senate that a commission under the Great Seal has been issued appointing me Speaker of the Senate.