

THE SENATE

Monday, April 3, 1989

THIRTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

OPENING OF SECOND SESSION

Parliament having been summoned by Proclamation to meet this day for the dispatch of business—

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that a communication had been received from the Secretary to the Governor General, as follows:

RIDEAU HALL

OTTAWA

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

March 14, 1989

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that Her Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the Main Entrance of the Parliament Buildings at 2:45 p.m. on Monday, the 3rd day of April, 1989.

When it has been indicated that all is in readiness, Her Excellency will proceed to the Senate Chamber to formally open the Second Session of the Thirty-Fourth Parliament of Canada.

Yours sincerely,
Léopold H. Amyot
Secretary to the Governor General

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate
Ottawa, Ontario

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At 3:00 p.m. Her Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took her seat upon the Throne. Her Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and, that House being come, with their

Speaker, Her Excellency was pleased to open the Second Session of the Thirty-Fourth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honourable Members of the Senate, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the House of Commons:

It is indeed a pleasure to greet you as you resume your duties.

Today, at the outset of this Second Session of Canada's Thirty-fourth Parliament, my government will put forward the objectives and purposes which it will pursue during its second mandate.

My government believes these objectives to be fundamental:

First, to build a strong economy, encouraged by incentive and opportunity, an economy fully competitive among the world's trading nations and one in which all Canadians may share its challenges, risks and rewards;

Second, to preserve Canada's environment, to actively encourage increased public interest and involvement, and to give firm leadership and support to international efforts to overcome the environmental threat to our planet;

Third, to maintain a caring, compassionate society which will be able, through continuing economic prosperity, to meet its obligations and responsibilities to those who are less fortunate and in greatest need; and

Fourth, to foster a confident sense of Canada's cultural and national uniqueness in which Canadians may have a greater sense of their common values and common citizenship.

Finally, as my government renews its commitment to national unity, it believes the ratification of the Meech Lake Accord is indispensable to the further evolution of the Canadian constitution.

With Quebec at the table as a willing participant, future constitutional development—including the important issues of Senate reform, of aboriginal and linguistic rights, of roles and responsibilities in relation to fisheries, and of ways to strengthen the Charter of Rights and Freedoms—will become possible and will be a priority of the government.

A Strong Economy

Since 1984, federal spending on programs has grown less rapidly than inflation and at less than one-third the average rate of the previous four years. In the last four years, the annual government deficit has declined from over eight percent to less than five percent of gross domestic product. This