

Having congratulated you, Mr. Speaker, on your elevation to the Chair, I add this reminder: I want you still to regard yourself as one of us. If we should at any time question your rulings, even if we should insult you, please remember that we love you just the same and that there is always a spirit of good fellowship in this old Chamber.

The Senate adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

SECOND SITTING

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

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being come with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the First Session of the Twentieth Parliament of the Dominion of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

You will rejoice with me that the opening of the Twentieth Parliament of Canada comes at the moment of the victorious conclusion of the war.

It is just six years ago that Parliament met in special session in anticipation of a declaration of war. Since that time, war has been waged continuously, first against Germany, later also against Italy and Japan. From the very beginning, the resources of Canada and the utmost efforts of our people were committed to the fight for freedom and to the winning of victory.

One by one, the aggressor nations and their satellite states have suffered total defeat by the armed forces of the United Nations. All have been compelled to surrender unconditionally. The terms of surrender were signed by Italy on September 8, 1943; by Germany, on May 8 of the present year; and by Japan, on the eve of the present week. The month of August witnessed the devastating use of the atomic bomb against Japanese cities, and the entry of the U.S.S.R. into war against Japan. Thus the world-encircling conflict, the most terrible of wars in human history, was brought to its close. Not only has victory been complete, it has been won over strongly organized and sinister forces working in combination in an attempt at world conquest and domination.

As you assemble at the opening of a new Parliament, I join with you in giving humble and grateful thanks to Divine Providence for the deliverance which His mercy has vouchsafed to the peoples of our own and other lands. We

of this day and generation have been the witnesses of a mighty manifestation of the workings of the moral law which inexorably connects wrongdoing with retribution. It is as applicable to nations as to men.

In this titanic conflict between the forces of good and evil, it has been ours to behold the triumph of right and justice. In this victory, we find the assurance of the ultimate triumph of righteousness as we seek to bring into being a new order founded upon world security and social justice.

The victory over Nazi and Fascist tyranny in Europe and over Japanese militarism in Asia has been bought at a great price. As the appalling extent of the power of the forces of aggression and tyranny was revealed, the free peoples of the world slowly began to realize what they owe to the allied nations who first opposed the aggressors. To their heroic resistance and to the armed might of all the United Nations, humanity owes not only its freedom, but everything which free men value and cherish most.

Our thoughts at this time are especially of the members of Canada's forces who have given their lives that victory might be ours and not our enemies'. The whole nation reverently bows its head in tribute to their sacrifice. At this hour our hearts share in special measure the hopes and expectations of those who yearn for the return of their loved ones, now liberated after three and a half years in Japanese prison camps. The deep sympathy of Canada is with all who have been bereaved, and with those who have suffered impairment of body or mind, imprisonment, privation or want.

It will be for history to record the magnitude of Canada's contribution in this global conflict. We rejoice that our armed forces have achieved so much in helping to defend and liberate nations to whose past and present our own is so closely akin. Our country will ever remember with pride the heroic exploits of Canada's fighting men and merchant seamen.

We pay tribute as well to the men and women without whose loyal and steady work on the farms, in forests, mines and fisheries, in factories, workshops and offices, in hospitals and homes, and in transport and other services, victory could not have been achieved. Canada's great contribution to victory has been made possible by the unbroken partnership of her warriors and her workers.

To all who have contributed by service and sacrifice to victory, I would, in the name of Parliament, express our country's gratitude.

So far as the future could be foreseen, my ministers had taken steps to see that Canada was prepared to meet the very difficult situations which would arise when victory had been won. Under the authority of Parliament, relief was provided to assist in feeding, clothing and housing destitute populations, and in rehabilitating areas devastated by enemy action in Europe. Additional measures to assist in meeting these and other imperative needs will be submitted for your consideration.

Preparations for the demobilization, rehabilitation and re-establishment in civil life of the men and women in the armed forces were well under way when Germany surrendered. The same is true of measures for the reconversion of the economic life of our country from a wartime to a peacetime basis, and