

## CANADA

# House of Commons Debates

## OFFICIAL REPORT

**Thursday, September 7, 1939**

FIFTH (SPECIAL WAR) SESSION—  
EIGHTEENTH PARLIAMENT—  
OPENING

Speaker: The Hon. PIERRE-FRANÇOIS CASGRAIN

The parliament which had been prorogued from time to time to the second day of October, 1939, met this day at Ottawa, for the dispatch of business.

The house met at three o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's secretary, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three p.m. on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker: His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate chamber.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

### OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

### GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the senate chamber His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both houses of parliament. To prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

As you are only too well aware, all efforts to maintain the peace of Europe have failed. The United Kingdom, in honouring pledges given as

a means of avoiding hostilities, has become engaged in war with Germany. You have been summoned at the earliest moment in order that the government may seek authority for the measures necessary for the defence of Canada, and for co-operation in the determined effort which is being made to resist further aggression, and to prevent the appeal to force instead of to pacific means in the settlement of international disputes. Already the militia, the naval service and the air force have been placed on active service, and certain other provisions have been made for the defence of our coasts and our internal security under the War Measures Act and other existing authority. Proposals for further effective action by Canada will be laid before you without delay.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

You will be asked to consider estimates to provide for expenditure which has been or may be caused by the state of war which now exists.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I need not speak of the extreme gravity of this hour. There can have been few, if any, more critical in the history of the world. The people of Canada are facing the crisis with the same fortitude that to-day supports the peoples of the United Kingdom and other of the nations of the British commonwealth. My ministers are convinced that Canada is prepared to unite in a national effort to defend to the utmost liberties and institutions which are a common heritage.

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be taken into consideration on Friday next.

Motion agreed to.

### EUROPEAN WAR

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS RELATING TO OUTBREAK OF WAR—EMERGENCY ORDERS IN COUNCIL

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): With the consent of the house I desire to lay on the table documents relating to the outbreak of war, September, 1939, copies of which, in English and French, are being distributed this afternoon.

I desire also to lay on the table copies of emergency orders in council passed since August 25, 1939, to date. The house I think will be interested in having immediately a