

Their Speaker, the Honourable Roland Michener said:—

“May it please Your Majesty,—

The House of Commons have elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If in the performance of those duties, I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and Country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Majesty’s person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Majesty the most favourable interpretation.”

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate answered:—

“Mr. Speaker,—

I am commanded by Her Majesty the Queen to declare you that She freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty’s person and government; and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, She grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges. I am commanded, also, to assure you that the Commons shall have ready access to Her Majesty upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from Her the most favourable construction.”

Her Majesty the Queen was then pleased to open the Session by a gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate,*

*Members of the House of Commons,*

I greet you as your Queen. Together we constitute the Parliament of Canada. For the first time the representatives of the people of Canada and their Sovereign are here assembled on the occasion of the opening of Parliament. This is for all of us a moment to remember.

Parliamentary government has been fashioned by the wisdom of many centuries. Its justice, authority and dignity are cherished by men of good will. It will be the high purpose of my Ministers not only to preserve these qualities but to take steps to make both Houses of this Parliament more effective in the discharge of their responsibilities to the people of Canada.

You have come here to form this new Parliament from across a great land, a land far wider than either of those older countries that first gave it birth. I am proud to contemplate the great heritage of this nation—the minerals, the forests, the lands, the waters, the sources of power and energy which fire your ever-growing industries. But I am more proud to contemplate the spirit and ideas which brought this country to nationhood, and now, drawing reinforcement and enrichment from many lands and peoples, have given Canada a national character peculiarly her own.