

THE SENATE

Thursday, October 8, 1970

OPENING OF THIRD SESSION TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

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

The Senate met at 10.15 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.
Prayers.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have received the following communication:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Ottawa
8 October, 1970

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the main entrance of the Parliament Buildings at 10.30 a.m. on this day Thursday the 8th of October, 1970, and when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Chamber of the Senate to open formally the Third Session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Esmond Butler,
Secretary to the
Governor General

The Honourable

The Speaker of the Senate,
Ottawa.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At 11 a.m. 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 Third Session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I have the honour to welcome you to the Third Session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament of Canada and to present, on behalf of my Government, various matters which it wishes to lay before you.

Before proceeding, I should like to recall to your minds a few events of the year which have been of special significance in our national life.

The Northwest Territories, which comprise 40 per cent of our land and water, and the "Keystone" Province of Manitoba, have each celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of their entry into Canada.

They were greatly encouraged in these exercises, and Canada as a whole was delighted by the presence of our gracious Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied for the first time by The Prince of Wales and Princess Anne. The Royal Family travelled extensively in the Northwest Territories and visited a great many Manitoba communities, ending with an enthusiastic send-off from Winnipeg. In Ottawa we were all pleased to play host for two days to Prince Charles, a friendly and interested guest.

The interest of Canada as a whole in these centennials was shown in many ways, including a Session of the Cabinet in Winnipeg, individual visits by the Prime Minister and other Canadians in public life, and by the participation of my wife and myself.

Our own travels in the Western Arctic and in the Yukon Territory enabled us to round out our tours of all the Provinces and Territories.

Next year British Columbia, which extended the Canadian Federation to the Pacific Coast in 1871, will mark the centennial of this historic event. It will give Canadians much satisfaction to know that Her Majesty and The Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by Princess Anne, will visit the Province in early May and join in the centennial celebration.

We gather here today within a few hours of the conclusion of the Second Session of this Parliament. In a real sense, the interval between the second and third sessions cannot be measured in terms of hours or days. The Third Session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament commences in the decade of the seventies, a decade which we dare not assume will be a continuation of the past. The passing of the sixties and the beginning of the seventies reminds us that Canada faces a new age; an age which will be subject to forces not all of which are yet comprehended or understood, forces which will proceed from external as well as internal origins. It is a new age not so much because of changed circumstances, but new because of changed values and attitudes.

Because of the clash between these new values and the old, because of the quest by the young and the disillusioned for some resolution of attitudes, we live in a period of tenseness and unease. It is an age frequented by violence as desperate men seek ill-defined goals; an age of frustration as gentle men question impatiently old assumptions. It is an age in which the life-support systems of the biosphere may collapse unless man reverses his present course and begins again to live in harmony,