

CANADA

Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Friday, January 7, 1955

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

The Senate met at 11 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

OPENING OF SECOND SESSION TWENTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Mr. Speaker and honourable senators, I trust you all have had an enjoyable Christmas season, and I wish you happiness and good health throughout 1955.

As honourable senators know, His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the Parliament Buildings at 2 o'clock this afternoon to open the Second Session of the Twenty-Second Parliament of Canada. His Excellency will read the Speech from the Throne, which will be referred to the Senate and to the House of Commons for consideration. Until the Speech has been read and placed before us, there is no business for this house to consider.

I would therefore move that the Senate now adjourn, to reassemble, at 1.30 this afternoon.

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, before putting the motion of the honourable Leader of the Government, may I read a message from the Secretary of His Excellency the Governor General, as follows:

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the main entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 2 p.m., on Friday, January 7, and, when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Senate chamber to open formally the Second Session of the Twenty-Second Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient servant,

Lionel Massey,

Secretary to the Governor General.

The motion was agreed to, and the Senate adjourned until 1.30 p.m.

The Senate met at 1.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At two 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 Second Session of the Twenty-second Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

It affords me great pleasure to greet you as you resume your parliamentary duties at the beginning of this New Year.

Since you last met, the people of Canada have been given an opportunity of extending once more an affectionate welcome to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother. They have also had the pleasure of greeting again the consort of our Sovereign, the Duke of Edinburgh, who came to attend the British Empire and Commonwealth Games held in Vancouver during the summer and to visit northern parts of Canada.

While there is hopeful evidence that the increasing strength of the free world has lessened the likelihood of aggression, the terrible destruction that war would bring to North America and indeed to all mankind has been magnified by the increase in the number and effectiveness of atomic and thermonuclear weapons and the means of delivering them.

My ministers are convinced that, while the resources of diplomacy must never be neglected in the search for peace, the efforts of the free nations in building their deterrent forces must be maintained. To this end, Canada was represented at the London and Paris Conferences which formulated an alternative to the European Defence Community