

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 18, 1994

The Senate met at 2:35 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

The Hon. the Speaker: As there is no business before the Senate, is it your pleasure, honourable senators, that the Senate do now adjourn during pleasure to await the arrival of His Excellency the Governor General of Canada?

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At 3:00 p.m., His Excellency the Governor General having come and being seated upon the Throne —

The Hon. the Speaker said:

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod,

You will proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that it is the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor General of Canada that they attend him immediately in the Senate Chamber.

The House of Commons being come,

Their Speaker, the Honourable Gilbert Parent, said:

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Commons has 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 Excellency's person at all seasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable construction.

The Hon. the Speaker of the Senate answered:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he 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, he 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 His Excellency upon all seasonable occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words

and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the First Session of the Thirty-fifth Parliament with the following speech:

[*Translation*]

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honourable Members of the Senate,

[*English*]

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the House of Commons.

The two and a half years that have passed since I last had the pleasure of addressing Parliament have brought many changes, to Canada and to the world. Our hopes for global peace have been raised and, in many places, shattered. In some countries today, democracy is under stress, its future uncertain.

Canadians, however, continue their unwavering commitment to democracy. Elections in this country are carried out as peaceful clashes of ideas, not of forces. The very fact that we are gathered in this chamber is, itself, testimony to the durability and wisdom of the process by which we govern ourselves.

Once again we look forward to welcoming Her Majesty. This year she will travel to Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories, and to British Columbia, where she will open the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

[*Translation*]

On October 25, 1993, Canadians chose a new Parliament and a new government. The Government has made a number of commitments to the people of Canada. They will be implemented.

On opening the first session of this Parliament, and on behalf of the Government, I make the following brief statements of government policy, which will be followed by legislation and other proposals by the Prime Minister and Ministers themselves.

The agenda of the Government is based on an integrated approach to economic, social, environmental and foreign policy.

[*English*]

In order to achieve this agenda, integrity and public trust in the institutions of government are essential.