

# HOUSE OF COMMONS

Tuesday, October 12, 1976

## SECOND SESSION—THIRTIETH PARLIAMENT—OPENING

[English]

The Parliament which had been prorogued on the twelfth day of October, 1976, met this day at Ottawa for the dispatch of business.

The House met at two o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

**Mr. Speaker** read a communication from the Secretary to the Governor General announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at 1.40 p.m. on this day for the purpose of formally opening the second session of the thirtieth Parliament of Canada.

A message was delivered by the 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, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

and being returned to the Commons Chamber:

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### OATHS OF OFFICE

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister)** moved for leave to introduce Bill C-1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

● (1500)

\* \* \*

[Translation]

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the House that when the House of Commons 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:*

I have the honour to welcome you to the Second Session of the 30th Parliament of Canada.

I am proud to be able to speak with you once more after an absence occasioned by an affliction which forced my withdrawal from public life for a time.

I now have a better understanding of our human frailty, but I have also learned the depths of devotion of those who love us as well as the strength of the human will to survive.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to all my fellow citizens who sent their best wishes for my health and who remembered me in their prayers.

The activities of this year have taken me from the grounds of Rideau Hall and across the country. Two of my engagements took me to Vancouver, for the United Nations Habitat conference, and to Montreal, for the Olympic Games.

The whole world was our guest for these two events, and I was struck by the contrast between those of us in Canada who are sometimes afflicted with morbid self-analysis, and those who come to us from other lands, and see Canada as a country truly blessed.

[Text]

For the Olympic Games, the Queen and her family came to Quebec and Ontario, after a visit by Her Majesty and Prince Philip to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick; everywhere they received a warm welcome.

Next year, of course, Her Majesty will celebrate the Silver Jubilee of her accession to the Throne. She will be spending a few days in Ottawa to celebrate it with us, and to celebrate also the Jubilee of the appointment of the first Canadian-born Governor General in Canada, and the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Order of Canada. This will be the seventh time in ten years that the Queen has visited Canada.

As we assemble in this historic place the day after Thanksgiving Day, it is fitting for all of us to pause and give thanks for the remarkable freedom we enjoy as Canadians, and for those human and natural resources which give Canada a favoured position among the nations of the world.

Because of the basic underlying strength of the economy, and because of the co-operation of the majority of Canadians which is making the anti-inflation program work, Canada has better reasons for confidence and optimism than has virtually any other nation. Our storehouse of natural resources, our food-producing ability, our labour and management skills present Canada with growth opportunities which are shared by few other industrialized countries. The fundamental reality which will guide our deliberations is that Canada is entering upon a decade of opportunity.

It is our strength, and our confidence in ourselves which give us the real opportunity to make greater progress toward those goals which all Canadians share—national unity, equality of opportunity, and the enhancement of individual rights.

#### I—National Unity

In order to promote that level of unity among Canadians without which we cannot be truly free, truly one nation, nor hope to achieve our shared national goals, the Government will place a very high priority upon the promotion of better understanding among French-speaking and English-speaking Canadians, and upon the achievement of formal constitutional independence.

Since 1968 the policy of official languages, supported by all parties represented in Parliament, has been based on the principle of equality, and on the right of Canadians to speak English or French according to their own will. An essential consequence, agreed by Parliament, is that the federal government provide services in the two official languages in the National Capital, and wherever else there is sufficient demand for such services.