

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

ROYAL ASSENT—SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

The Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, the Deputy of the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons having been summoned, and being come with their Speaker, the Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to give the Royal Assent to the following Bills:

An Act for granting to His Majesty aid for national defence and security.

An Act for granting to His Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1946.

After which the Honourable the Deputy of the Governor General was pleased to close the Sixth Session of the Nineteenth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be deeply gratified that the close of the last session of this war Parliament comes at a time when decisive battles against Germany have been fought and won, at sea, in the air, and on land; and when spectacular Allied successes against Japan presage the defeat of our enemies in Asia, as well as in Europe.

All Canada has watched with ever increasing pride the contribution Canadian forces have made toward ultimate victory.

I am particularly pleased that my leave-taking of honourable members of the present Parliament comes at a moment when both Houses have endorsed the acceptance by the Government of the invitation to Canada to send representatives to the United Nations conference at San Francisco which opens on the 25th of this month.

It is indeed gratifying that the Canadian delegation has been assured of the strong support of both Houses of Parliament in a determined effort to further the creation of an international organization to maintain peace and security in the post-war world. Next to the winning of the war, the winning of the peace is the supreme end to be achieved.

As the promise of peace dawns, a shadow has been cast athwart the threshold of the San Francisco conference by the passing of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In the general acceptance of a charter for an international security organization the late President foresaw the realization

of a great hope: an enduring peace through co-operative action on the part of all nations. His life and work helped to impart that vision to others. The deliberations of the conference will now be inspired by his indomitable spirit.

In the death of Franklin Roosevelt, Canada mourns the loss of a true friend and a good neighbour; the oppressed peoples of the earth, a valiant champion; and mankind, a mighty leader of the forces of freedom.

Members of the House of Commons:

My Ministers have consistently taken the position that the people should be secured in their rights under the Constitution to elect representatives to the House of Commons at least every five years, and that, subject to this limitation, any question as to the time of a general election should be viewed in the light of what Canada owes to her fighting men. My Ministers have also felt that, once decisive battles had been fought, a general election should be held as soon as possible. They are deeply gratified that it is now possible to hold a general election at a time more favourable than any hitherto, to a careful consideration by members of the armed forces, as well as by citizens generally, of the problems which relate to Canada's future. The most ample provision has been made for the exercise of the franchise by members of the armed forces in all parts of the world.

The term of the present Parliament will expire at midnight to-night. On the advice of the Prime Minister, I shall approve a recommendation to have Parliament dissolved at the conclusion of this afternoon's proceedings. I shall also approve the issue, immediately thereafter, of a Proclamation for the holding of a general election on June 11.

I thank you for having made the necessary financial provision for the effective conduct of the war, and for meeting the ordinary expenses of government required to bridge over the period between the beginning of the present fiscal year and the opening of a new Parliament following the general election.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The people of Canada as a nation welcome to-day the opportunity to express profound gratitude to Almighty God for the deliverance from evil forces which in His Providence we now see is being vouchsafed to peoples of our own and other countries which our enemies have sought to conquer and enslave. As this Parliament ends, we join in humble and reverent thanksgiving to God for His Mercy thus revealed to our own and other freedom-loving lands.