

While the present session of Parliament will necessarily be mainly concerned with Canada's war effort, and the measures essential to the achievement of ultimate victory, My Ministers are of opinion that, despite what today is being witnessed of concentrated warfare, it is desirable, as far as may be possible, to plan for the days that will follow the cessation of hostilities.

As a contribution to industrial stability in time of war, and to social security and justice in time of peace, resolutions will be introduced for an amendment to the British North America Act which would empower the Parliament of Canada to enact at the present session legislation to establish unemployment insurance on a national scale.

The report of the Royal Commission on Dominion-Provincial Relations, which has just been received, will be tabled immediately.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

You will be asked to make financial provision for expenditure necessitated by the existing state of war.

The estimates for the current fiscal year will be submitted to you without delay.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

Since the last session of Parliament, a much beloved Governor General has passed from our midst. In the death of Lord Tweedsmuir, Canada mourns one whose character and achievements had endeared him to our people; the British Commonwealth has lost a wise and understanding counsellor, and the fellowship of writers a gifted interpreter of the graces and humanities of English literature. I join with you in the expression to Lady Tweedsmuir and the members of her family of the deep sympathy of the Canadian people.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint the Earl of Athlone as His Representative in succession to the late Lord Tweedsmuir. The sense of His duty and the public services which have distinguished the lives of the Governor General designate and the Princess Alice ensure for His Excellency and Her Royal Highness an eager and cordial welcome to Canada.

As you assume, in these dark and difficult days, the grave responsibilities with which you have been entrusted by the Canadian people, may your resolution be sustained by the knowledge that it is the liberties of all free peoples that you are helping to preserve. Unless the evil powers, which threaten the very existence of freedom, are vanquished, the world itself will inevitably be reduced to a state of international anarchy.

I pray that Divine Providence may guide and bless your deliberations.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King, it was ordered,—That the Order for the consideration of the motion for an Address to His Excellency the Administrator in reply to his Speech at the opening of the session, have precedence over all other business, except introduction of Bills, until disposed of.

On motion of Mr. Mackenzie King, a Special Committee consisting of Messrs. Mackenzie (Vancouver Centre), Casgrain, Casselman (Grenville-Dundas), Taylor and Douglas (Weyburn), was appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the Standing Committees of this House under Standing Order 63.