

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Speaker: The Honourable W. Ross Macdonald

Tuesday, January 30, 1951

FOURTH SESSION—TWENTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued on the twenty-ninth day of January, 1951, met this day at Ottawa for the dispatch of business.

The house met at three o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's Secretary, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three o'clock on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, 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 the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that, when the house 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:

Since you met in special session in the autumn of last year, there has been a further deterioration in the international situation. The intervention of Chinese forces in active opposition to the United Nations forces in Korea has increased the danger of a general conflagration.

So far the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement in the Far East have not succeeded. While aggression cannot be condoned and will continue to be resisted, it is the view of my ministers that the door to negotiation at any time a cessation of hostilities in Korea can be arranged must be kept open.

The increased menace in the Far East reinforces the mounting evidence that communist imperialism is determined to dominate the world by force or the fear of force, and that the only hope of maintaining peace with freedom lies in the rapid increase of the combined strength of the free nations. It is equally important that the free nations should make it abundantly clear that they have no aggressive designs and that they are resolved to aid in constructive endeavours to improve the standards of human welfare in underdeveloped countries.

My ministers have endeavoured to uphold these international objectives in the deliberations of the United Nations, at the recent meeting of the prime ministers of the commonwealth countries, and in our diplomatic relations with all nations and governments.

Units of the Royal Canadian Navy and the Royal Canadian Air Force have shared from the outset in the United Nations action in Korea. One battalion of the Canadian Army special force is now in Korea, and the rest of the force is at Fort Lewis, Washington, where it is available for service in Korea or for other employment in discharge of our international obligations.

Progress has been made in the organization of an integrated force in Europe under the North Atlantic treaty organization. The Supreme Commander, General Eisenhower, has recently visited Canada to consult with the government and the chiefs of staff. You will be asked early in the session to authorize Canadian participation in this integrated force as part of our program for national defence and security. You will also be asked to approve substantially increased expenditures for defence.

The urgent need of the St. Lawrence seaway and power project in relation to the security of this