

"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 interpretation."

The Honourable 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, she 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."

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I welcome you to this first session of the twenty-fifth Parliament of Canada.

I know I speak for all Canadians when I say how pleased we were to have Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother with us again. Her warmth and charm have added to the loyalty and affection for the Crown and our Queen.

This Spring His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh spent several weeks here in connection with his Second Study Conference on the Human Consequences of the Changing Industrial Environment in the Commonwealth and Empire. Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, during her stay in Canada last June, carried out her programme of engagements with simplicity and grace.

Canada has been honoured in the last few days by a visit from the President of Pakistan, His Excellency Ayub Khan, who accompanied my Prime Minister on his return from the Commonwealth Conference. We were happy to greet this distinguished leader of a great Commonwealth nation and to discuss with him matters of mutual interest.

Since we last met in this Chamber my wife and I have visited many parts of Canada and have received at Government House a great number of societies and organizations, including representatives of student groups and youth movements. We have been deeply impressed with the expressions of loyalty to the Crown by people in all walks of life.