

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Tuesday, January 30, 1951

The Parliament of Canada having been summoned by Proclamation of the Governor General to meet this day for the dispatch of business.

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that His Excellency the Governor General would arrive at the Main Entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 3 p.m., and, when it had been signified that all was in readiness, would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Fourth Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Fourth Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

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 under-developed 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 continent is becoming increasingly apparent. It is the view of my ministers that the Canadian authorities should be kept in a position to co-operate promptly in undertaking construction of the project once affirmative action has been taken by the appropriate United States authorities.

Your approval will be sought for an appropriate Canadian participation in the Colombo plan and in technical assistance to under-developed areas.

The policies of the government are designed to prevent war, but the dangers of the international situation and the magnitude of the defence effort required as a deterrent have, in the opinion of my ministers, created an emergency situation. You will accordingly be asked to approve legislation vesting in the Governor in Council additional powers to ensure adequate defence preparations to meet the present emergency and to prevent economic dislocation resulting from defence preparations.

You will also be asked to approve a bill to establish a Department of Defence Production to act as a procurement agency for the defence forces of Canada and also for such defence requirements of our allies as may be met from Canadian production.

Amendments to legislation relating to the armed forces will also be submitted for your approval.

Legislation will be submitted respecting the application of the Benefits of the Veterans Charter to members of the Special Force. Amendments will be introduced to legislation concerning pensions for veterans and their dependents to relieve difficulties being experienced by certain groups of pensioners provided for thereunder.