

*Congratulations on Canadian Centennial**Honourable Members of the Senate,**Members of the House of Commons,*

It is our honour and privilege to be responsible for the government of our country in this one hundredth year of confederation. It is our duty to govern well.

In addition to the measures already specified, you will be asked to consider a number of other legislative proposals.

In conclusion, I would end today, as the first Governor General of our country did one hundred years ago:

"Within our borders peace, security and prosperity prevail, and I fervently pray that your aspirations may be directed to such high and patriotic objects, and that you may be endowed with such a spirit of moderation and wisdom as will cause you to render the great work of union which has been achieved, a blessing to yourselves and your posterity, and a fresh starting point in the moral, political and material advancement of the people of Canada."

May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.

• (5:30 p.m.)

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister)** moved:

That the speech of His Excellency, delivered this day from the throne to both houses of parliament, be taken into consideration later this day.

Motion agreed to.

**CANADIAN CENTENNIAL****RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES FROM U.K. PARLIAMENT**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the house that a message has been received from the Right Hon. Horace Maybray King, Speaker of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, conveying the text of a resolution of that house, as follows:

The Prime Minister

Mr. Edward Heath

Mr. Jeremy Thorpe

Centenary of the Canadian Parliament: *Resolved, nemine contradicente*, That this House, mindful of its debates in February and March 1867, which led to the passage of the British North America Act and to the establishment of the Parliament and Dominion of Canada and recalling the hopes then expressed that the foundation had thereby been laid for the development of strong and self-reliant parliamentary institutions in that country; notes that these hopes have been amply fulfilled in the continuing vigour and vitality of the parliamentary system in Canada and sends most friendly greetings and warm congratulations to the Canadian House of Commons on the centenary of its establishment, and all good wishes for the second century of its existence.

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the resolution of congratulations which you have just read and which, as you have said, was moved in the British House of [Mr. Speaker.]

Commons by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, was passed unanimously by that ancient and illustrious body which two years ago celebrated its seven hundredth anniversary in the same hall at Westminster where it first met.

Very generous remarks were made when this resolution was being considered at Westminster by the Prime Minister, Right Hon. Harold Wilson, by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Heath, and by the leader of the Liberal party, Mr. Thorpe. I am sure all members of this house share my appreciation of this generous and friendly gesture, and I am sure that all members would wish this appreciation to be suitably expressed and recorded, for transmission to Westminster.

As has been the case with many countries, we inherited our own parliamentary institutions from Britain, the home of the mother of parliaments. Indeed, one of the bonds holding together that unique organization, the Commonwealth of Nations, is this shared parliamentary heritage.

In Canada, parliamentary institutions have played a vital part in the development of our Confederation. They have served us faithfully and well in war and peace, in bad times and in good. They have enabled our country to grow with a maximum degree of freedom for our people, and with a maximum of consideration for discussion and dissent in the solution of our problems. It is difficult to imagine a more stable or suitable governmental foundation for future progress as we contemplate our second century of confederation. The capacity of our parliamentary system to adjust itself in response to the requirements of the moment, without sacrificing its basic characteristics, has been demonstrated in the past. We must hope that the subtle, durable mechanism, of which this house forms such an important part, will successfully meet the even more difficult and important challenges of the present by adapting itself to the new conditions we face.

We often forget that it was the combined genius of Anglo-Saxon and Norman French that brought about the birth and development of the parliamentary system in Britain. In Canada there has been a similarly enriching association of these two races in our parliamentary evolution. In working out our federal system of government, parliamentary institutions have enabled English speaking and French speaking Canadians to settle their problems and find acceptable accommodations for their difficulties in a framework