

Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Monday, November 26, 1956

OPENING OF SPECIAL SESSION TWENTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT

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

The Senate met at 11 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

COMMUNICATION FROM GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have received the following communication:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
OTTAWA

November 20th, 1956

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the main entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 2.30 p.m., on Monday, the 26th of November, and, when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Special Session of the Twenty-Second Parliament of Canada, which has been called for that date.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

LIONEL MASSEY,

Secretary to the Governor General.

The Honourable
The Speaker of the Senate,
Ottawa.

BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

Hon. W. Ross Macdonald: Honourable senators, first let me say how pleased I am to see so many honourable senators in attendance today and looking in the best of health and spirits. We did not expect to return to Ottawa before the regular session in January, but international affairs have made it necessary that we meet at this time to consider certain legislation affecting world events. We shall hear more of this when the Speech from the Throne is read this afternoon.

The Senate is assembling this morning in accordance with its custom of meeting before the formal opening of Parliament in order to

dispose of routine proceedings. We shall reassemble at 2.15 this afternoon, and in the meantime the doors will be open and the public will be admitted to the gallery.

I have had a discussion with the honourable Leader of the Opposition (Hon. Mr. Haig); and the tentative plan for the business of the house is as follows. At 2.30, as we have heard from the Honourable the Speaker, the Governor General will read the Speech from the Throne. Thereafter there will be the usual business of the house—the presenting of a *pro forma* bill, and motions.

Honourable senators will recall that unfortunately during the period of prorogation we have lost five of our members. We feel that our first order of business should be a reference to these members; and the Leader of the Opposition and I are suggesting that that should take place this afternoon, after the Speech from the Throne has been read and a decision has been made as to when the debate on the speech shall be proceeded with.

It is not the intention—although this is merely a tentative arrangement—to proceed this afternoon with consideration of the Speech from the Throne. The Leader of the Opposition and I thought that it would be better to postpone this until tomorrow. So the arrangement for today is that, after the reference to our deceased members, we shall adjourn, to meet tomorrow afternoon, probably at 3 o'clock, to proceed with consideration of the Speech from the Throne.

I therefore propose that we now rise, to reassemble at the call of the bell, at approximately 2.15 this afternoon.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

The Senate met at 2.15 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At 2.30 p.m. 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 (Special)