

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Thursday, November 20, 1952

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 Seventh 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 Seventh Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

You resume your labours on behalf of the Canadian people at a time of continuing international tension. Nevertheless, because of the steadfast resistance of our Canadian forces and their comrades in arms to aggression in Korea and because of the increasing strength of the forces of freedom in Europe, there are signs of a lessening of the danger of an outbreak of war on a global scale.

My ministers are convinced that a lasting peace can be assured only so long as the combined strength of the free world continues to be built up and maintained.

The sacrifices of those directly involved in the United Nations police action in Korea and the anxieties of their families are an inevitable and most regrettable part of the price we are paying to prevent another world war.

To meet our nation's international responsibilities certain of my ministers are attending the seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Because of the continued international tension you will be asked to approve legislation providing for the continuation of the Emergency Powers Act and you will also be asked to provide for the appointment of an Associate Minister of National Defence.

My Prime Minister and my Minister of Finance will attend a meeting of the prime ministers of the commonwealth to open in London later this month to consider important economic and monetary problems.

Her Majesty the Queen has been pleased to set June the second next as the date of her coronation.

Arrangements will be made for Canadian representation at the ceremonies and plans are being formulated for the celebration in Canada of this historic event.

Canada has been blessed this year with a record grain crop.

Our economic conditions remain favourable and the level of external trade is high. While the dangers of inflation have not disappeared, pressures have eased and it has been possible to suspend the operation of some of the anti-inflationary measures.

Under an amendment to the income tax regulations the provisions for deferred depreciation which have been in effect since April 11, 1951, will not apply to property acquired after December 31, 1952, nor to taxation years commencing after that date.

Early in 1953 negotiations will be carried on in Washington for a new international wheat agreement to replace the existing agreement which expires on July 31 next. You will be asked to consider amendments to the Canadian Wheat Board Act.

The international joint commission has issued an order of approval for the development of hydro-electric power in the international section of the St. Lawrence river.

Because of this latest step the Canadian government has informed the government of the United States it considers that the agreement made in 1941 in respect of the St. Lawrence seaway has been superseded.

Pending the establishment of the St. Lawrence seaway authority, an engineering planning staff has been set up in Montreal to begin work on detailed plans for the seaway, and the Gut Dam in the river near Iroquois is now being removed.

You will be asked to make financial provision for certain improvements to Vancouver harbour and for engineering studies of that harbour and of other possible improvements to navigation on the Pacific coast. You will also be asked to make further provision for the Canso causeway, the ferry service from North Sydney to Port aux Basques and the terminal facilities at Port aux Basques, and the new ferry service between Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and Bar Harbor, Maine.

You will be invited to consider a measure to provide for federal co-operation with the provincial governments in the conservation of the water resources of Canada.

To give effect to recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Banking and Commerce at