

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Government House, Ottawa,
December 29, 1951

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, acting as deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber at seven o'clock p.m. today, December 29, for the purpose of proroguing the fifth session of the twenty-first parliament.

I have the honour to be,
sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. Delaute,
Assistant Secretary to the Governor General

[Later]:

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General will proceed to the Senate at 6.15 p.m. instead of seven o'clock as previously announced.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY

APPROVAL OF PROTOCOL FOR ACCESSION OF GREECE AND TURKEY

The house resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Pearson:

That it is expedient that the houses of parliament do approve the protocol to the North Atlantic treaty on the accession of Greece and Turkey, signed by Canada at London on October 17, 1951, and that this house do approve the same.

Mr. J. M. Macdonnell (Greenwood): Mr. Speaker, I should like to say only a word or two on this resolution, not to ask questions and certainly not to make any new suggestions, but just because I find the occasion not only an important one but, in a way, a rather moving one.

I should like to say just a word or two about these two nations which are now to be associated with us in this new way. It touches the imagination, first of all geographically, when one realizes that the north Atlantic is now being extended through the straits of Gibraltar and two thousand miles through the Mediterranean and the Aegean to Turkey and Greece. As the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon) said this morning, when we think of those countries, we think of them as being close to the danger, and feeling a realism about it which perhaps it is hard for us always to feel.

Then I should like to say just a word about what might be called the historic side. First of all, Turkey: sometimes we have been in alliance with Turkey, and sometimes in opposition. But in whichever quality we had to do with them it was the testimony of all, whether friend or enemy, that they were

North Atlantic Treaty

brave and chivalrous. I remember well in the first great war that those who fought against them in the peninsula always spoke of them as gentlemen.

And when we come to Greece, none of us can forget that our whole civilization owes more than we can ever express to Greece. I would like to read just a sentence from, I suppose, the greatest exposition ever made of what we owe to the Greeks. It was not made for that purpose. It was made hundreds of years before Christ by a great Greek speaking over the graves of those who had fallen in war. He describes in a sentence or two the civilization from which we have taken so much and by which we now live. This is the speech put into the mouth of Pericles by the great Greek historian Thucydides, where he says, speaking of Athens:

For we enjoy a form of government which does not copy the laws of our neighbours; but we are ourselves rather a pattern to others than imitators of them. In name, from its not being administered for the benefit of the few, but of the many, it is called a democracy; but with regard to its laws, all enjoy equality, as concerns their private differences; while with regard to public rank, according as each man has reputation for any thing, he is preferred for public honours, not so much from consideration of party, as of merit; nor, again, on the ground of poverty, while he is able to do the state any good service, is he prevented by the obscurity of his position.

Coming to more modern days we remember what the Greeks endured in the autumn of 1940 and from then on. We remember how they resisted what looked like an overwhelming force, how they fought on through the war, and endured and suffered in the war years and after those years. Then, in these latest days of all, there is fighting in Korea which again they share with us, and where the Turks notably have distinguished themselves in battle as they have so often done before.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I felt I wished to detain the house for only a moment to signify my satisfaction with what is being done today.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I wish to follow the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell) in a similar vein. There is a very special significance to the steps we are now taking to play our part in approving the arrangement made to bring Greece and Turkey into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Greece was the birthplace of western democracy. Greece has given to the world the greatest of its art and culture, which really laid the foundation for those stronger societies which grew up in Italy and other parts of Europe in the years that followed.