

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, May 13, 1991

The House met at 4 p.m.

Prayers

OPENING OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

[*Translation*]

The Parliament, which had been prorogued on the twelfth day of May, 1991, met this day at Ottawa for the dispatch of business.

The House met at four o'clock, the Speaker in the Chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Secretary to the Governor General announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would arrive at the Main Entrance of the Parliament Buildings at 3.35 p.m. on this day the 13th May, 1991, and that when it had been signified that all was in readiness, His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open formally the third session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament of Canada.

[*English*]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable House in the chamber of the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

• (1710)

And the House being returned to the Commons Chamber:

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-1 respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House did attend His Excellency this day in the Senate chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament. To prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy which is as follows:

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Honourable Members of the Senate,
Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the House of Commons.*

It is my great pleasure to greet you as you begin the third session of the Thirty- Fourth Parliament.

In the past fifteen months, my wife and I have had the wonderful privilege of meeting thousands of Canadians at Rideau Hall, La Citadelle and in our visits to all of Canada's provinces and territories.

Whatever our background and wherever we live, Canadians share the same basic hopes and aspirations. We are proud of the great country we have inherited. Above all, we are determined to leave it a better and stronger place for our children.

As Gerda and I meet Canadians, we are moved by the special regard they have for the Queen and for the role she has played in our history. In the nearly forty years since she ascended the throne, she has been served by all seven Canadian Governors General—and she remains a living example of the continuity and stability that are fundamental to our system of government.

Therefore, it was a genuine pleasure this year, on your behalf, to congratulate Her Majesty and wish her well on the occasion of her 65th birthday.

This session will be a turning point in Canadian history. Let no one doubt the seriousness of the challenges we face as a country. You will have the responsibility and the opportunity to forge an historic accommodation that embraces all Canadians, overcomes division and discord and charts a course for prosperity for generations to come.