

A Message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.

"Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this Honourable House in the Chamber of the Honourable the Senate".

The House attended accordingly;

And being returned.

Mr. Pearson, seconded by Mr. Martin (Essex East), by leave of the House, introduced Bill C-1, An Act respecting the Administration of Oaths of Office, which was read the first time.

Mr. Speaker reported that, when the House did attend His Excellency the Governor General this day in the Senate Chamber, His Excellency was pleased to make a speech to both Houses of Parliament, and to prevent mistakes, he had obtained a copy, which is as follows:

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

As my words are being broadcast throughout Canada I should like to begin on a personal note. I want to say that I am deeply conscious of the possibilities for good for Canada of my new office and duty—that which brings me here today to open the Centennial Session of Parliament. May I renew my pledge at the ceremony of Installation: that my sole purpose and effort will be to merit the confidence which had been reposed in me by Her Majesty our Queen on the advice of her Canadian Ministers and by the countless Canadians from every region who have so freely offered their good wishes. My wife and I are deeply grateful for such messages and greatly encouraged by them.

On this occasion we feel again the sadness of our loss in the recent death of His Excellency General Georges Vanier, my much beloved predecessor. His courageous and lifelong devotion to all that is good and honourable sets an example to inspire all Canadians.

The careers of my two distinguished Canadian predecessors have added to the traditional and constitutional functions of the Governor General as the representative of Her Majesty the Queen of Canada, that of representing the Canadian people in a broad range of their activities and attitudes. In this role I shall try to encourage the best features of our national life, in all its diversity, and to symbolize the unity and continuity of the Canadian people as expressed in their federal institutions.

With you, I look forward this summer to the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family. The presence of our Sovereign and the Heads of State of other countries will bring added joy and festivity to our land as it celebrates the centennial of its Confederation.

This Centennial Session of Parliament provides an opportunity to begin to give effect to our aspirations for the second century of Confederation.