

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 17, 1972

OPENING OF FOURTH SESSION TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

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

The Senate met at 10.30 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

February 17, 1972

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the main entrance of the Parliament Buildings at 10.35 a.m. on this day, Thursday the 17th of February, 1972, and when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Chamber of the Senate to open formally the Fourth Session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient servant,
Esmond Butler

Secretary to the Governor General

The Honourable

The Speaker of the Senate,

Ottawa.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At 11 a.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 Session of the Twenty-eighth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

This reunion of your two Houses with the Representative of the Crown marks the beginning of the Fourth Session of the 28th Parliament of Canada.

Before proceeding to the business of the new session I should like to thank you in the name of our Queen and on behalf of all Canadians for your efforts and accomplishments during the long Third Session which began the 8th of October 1970 and was concluded only yesterday.

During that period there was a continuing celebration of centennials connected with the foundation of the Canadian Confederation. Manitoba and the Northwest Territories concluded ceremonies which marked the 100th anniversary of their incorporation into the Dominion. The admission of British Columbia, which gave Canada its place on the Pacific Ocean, was commemorated in 1971 with much enthusiasm and a multitude of ceremonies and projects. As in the year before, our gracious Queen and other members of the Royal Family marked the event with an extensive tour, much to the delight of British Columbians and Canadians generally.

It gave my wife and me much satisfaction to take official part on several occasions in the British Columbia celebrations, as well as to travel abroad on behalf of Canada to The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Iran, in response to invitations from the heads of these States so well disposed towards Canada.

Since last I addressed you some 16 months ago, events in Canada and elsewhere have continued to demonstrate the turbulence of this age of changing values and shifting attitudes. We have witnessed with sadness outbursts of violence beyond our shores as despairing men and women have chosen to settle their differences through the use of force, extending in some cases to actual war. We have witnessed as well a period of international economic uncertainty which affected all of the industrialized nations of the world and which has made us increasingly aware of our dependence on a strong economic base in the pursuit of our social goals.

We learned in months gone by that Canada was not immune from internal pressures. In October 1970 one of the most difficult national challenges in many years was met calmly, with discipline, and with the strong support of the people of Canada. There were sad moments but there were also memorable examples of resoluteness and courage.

More recently, we learned from another type of challenge, this time of an economic nature and coming from without rather than within, that Canada and Canadians possessed the stamina and the resilience to overcome this form of adversity as well.

Throughout, pressures for change around the world emphasized to us that the excitement and the promise of modern technological achievements become hollow and mocking to those who find in society little understanding of their hopes and little provision for their needs. In a period dominated by bigness, in an increasingly impersonal social system, one of the major challenges facing government is to remove the impression of isolation which so often surrounds men and women, depriving them of their sense of worth, of accomplishment, of fulfil-