

Opening of the Session

fulfil my duties in a manner that will do justice to you and this house, whose servant I am.

SITTING SUSPENDED

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wish to assure you that it is a great pleasure for me to have the privilege of being the first to address you in your new official capacity, and I do so only to make the suggestion that you declare the sitting of this house suspended until three o'clock this afternoon, when we shall be delighted to have you communicate the information of your appointment to this office to His Excellency the Governor General, and to claim and obtain from him the traditional rights that the holders of this office have always enjoyed throughout the centuries.

At 12.45 p.m. the sitting was suspended until 3 p.m. this day.

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at three o'clock.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's Secretary, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three o'clock on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, 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 honourable the Senate.

Accordingly Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber. Then the Hon. L. Rene Beaudoin, Speaker of the House of Commons, said:

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Commons have elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If in the performance of those duties I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable construction.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate, addressing the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons, then said:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty's person and

[Mr. Speaker.]

government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, he grants, and upon all occasions will recognize and allow their constitutional privileges.

I am commanded also to assure you, that the Commons shall have ready access to His Excellency upon all reasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

Then His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open parliament by a speech from the throne.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to report that, the house having attended on His Excellency the Governor General in the Senate chamber, I informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker had fallen upon me, and, in your names, and on your behalf, I made the usual claim for your privileges, which His Excellency was pleased to confirm to you.

VACANCY

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received a communication from two members notifying me that the following vacancy has occurred in the representation:

Of Gordon Graydon, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Peel, by decease.

Accordingly I have issued my warrant to the chief electoral officer to make out a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house 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. To prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy, which is as follows:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to the opening of the twenty-second parliament. This is a time when, if peace is maintained, we have every reason to look forward to the continuing development of this prosperous and happy nation.

The coronation of our beloved Queen was an occasion for universal rejoicing. Her devotion to duty, her personal charm and her happy family life have assured Her Majesty of a warm place in the hearts of all her subjects and have strengthened