

Yours sincerely,
 Jean M. Sévigny
for Léopold H. Amyot
 Secretary to the Governor General

The Honourable
 The Speaker of the Senate
 Ottawa

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, with leave of the Senate and notwithstanding rule 45(1)(g), I move:

That the Senate do now adjourn until three-thirty o'clock this afternoon.

The Hon. the Speaker: Is leave granted, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

The Senate adjourned until 3.30 p.m.

SECOND SITTING

The Senate met at 3.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

The Hon. the Speaker: As there is no business before the Senate, is it your pleasure, honourable senators, that the Senate do now adjourn during pleasure to await the arrival of Her Excellency the Governor General?

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At 4 p.m., Her Excellency the Governor General having come and being seated upon the Throne—

The Hon. the Speaker said:

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod,

You will proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that it is the pleasure of Her Excellency the Governor General that they attend her immediately in the Senate Chamber.

The House of Commons being come,

Their Speaker, the Hon. John A. Fraser, P.C., said:

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Commons has 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

[The Hon. the Speaker.]

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 Hon. the Speaker of the Senate answered:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by Her Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that she freely confides in the duty and attachment of the House of Commons to Her Majesty's Person and Government, and not doubting that their proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper and prudence, she 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 Her Excellency upon all reasonable occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from her the most favourable construction.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Her Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the First Session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament with the following speech:

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 on this, the first day of the Thirty-fourth Parliament since Confederation. This ceremony is rich in history, custom, tradition and symbolism. It is also a renewal of the vital relationship among Crown, people, parliament and government that, today as in the past, is the essence of Canadian democracy.

The people have spoken in a general election three weeks ago. Their members in the House of Commons have today claimed from the Crown the ancient rights and privileges that enable them to carry out their responsibilities.

In the election, my government sought and received a mandate for its policies, including the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States that is to take effect on January 1, 1989. The purpose of this early session of the Thirty-fourth Parliament is to seek your approval for legislation to implement this Agreement as scheduled. Similar legislation was passed by the House of Commons in August. It had also received approval in principle in the Senate and had reached the stage of Senate committee study, prior to dissolution of the Thirty-third Parliament.

My government is determined to secure the benefits of economic opportunity for this and future generations of Canadians. This Agreement reflects my ministers' confidence in Canada's ability to compete with the best in the world.