

# CANADA

## The Debates of the Senate

### OFFICIAL REPORT

#### THE SENATE

Thursday, September 7, 1939.

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

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

#### OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Hon. the SPEAKER informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the session of the Dominion Parliament this day at three o'clock.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

#### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock 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 Fifth Session of the Eighteenth Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

As you are only too well aware, all efforts to maintain the peace of Europe have failed. The United Kingdom, in honouring pledges given as a means of avoiding hostilities, has become engaged in war with Germany. You have been summoned at the earliest moment in order that the Government may seek authority for the measures necessary for the defence of Canada, and for co-operation in the determined effort which is being made to resist further aggression, and to prevent the appeal to force instead of to pacific means in the settlement of international disputes. Already the Militia, the Naval Service and the Air Force have been placed on active service, and certain other provisions have been made for the defence of our coasts and our internal security under the War Measures Act and other existing authority. Proposals for further effective action by Canada will be laid before you without delay.

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Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to consider estimates to provide for expenditure which has been or may be caused by the state of war which now exists.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I need not speak of the extreme gravity of this hour. There can have been few, if any, more critical in the history of the world. The people of Canada are facing the crisis with the same fortitude that to-day supports the peoples of the United Kingdom and other of the nations of the British Commonwealth. My Ministers are convinced that Canada is prepared to unite in a national effort to defend to the utmost liberties and institutions which are a common heritage.

The House of Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

#### RAILWAY BILL

##### FIRST READING

Bill A, an Act relating to Railways.—Hon. Mr. Dandurand.

#### CONSIDERATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH

On motion of Hon. Mr. Dandurand, it was ordered that the speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration at the next sitting of the House.

#### THE ROYAL VISIT

##### LETTER FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING

Hon. RAOUL DANDURAND: Honourable senators, I have been requested to communicate to this Chamber a letter written on July 13, 1939, by His Majesty King George VI. It is as follows:

Buckingham Palace

13th July, 1939.

My dear Prime Minister:

Since my return to England, I have been fully occupied with work which had accumulated in my absence; I fear you must have had a similar experience when you got back to Ottawa.

But I do not wish to let more time elapse without telling you how deeply grateful I am to you, and to your colleagues in my Canadian