

## HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, March 31, 1960

The house met at 2.30 p.m.

### SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDRESS IN REPLY

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the house that I have received a message from His Excellency the Governor General, signed by his own hand, reading as follows:

Government House, Ottawa  
30th March, 1960

Members of the House of Commons:

I have received with great pleasure the address that you have voted in reply to my speech at the opening of parliament. I thank you sincerely for this address.

Georges Vanier

### THE ROYAL ASSENT

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa, March 30, 1960

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Honourable Patrick Kerwin, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber on Thursday, the 31st March, at 5.45 p.m., for the purpose of giving the royal assent to certain bills.

I have the honour to be,  
sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. Joly de Lotbiniere  
Assistant Secretary to the  
Governor General

### COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

#### SOUTH AFRICA—REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF ALARM AND DISTRESS

On the orders of the day:

**Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition):** Mr. Speaker, having regard to the grave deterioration of the situation in South Africa, I should like to ask the Prime Minister a question. Will he instruct the Canadian representative there to inform the South African government of the alarm and distress of this parliament at political developments which have led to such violence and may lead to anarchy?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I am acutely conscious of the deeply held feelings of the

house and, indeed, of Canadians generally, over this question and, I need not add, of their abhorrence and mine of discrimination.

The house will be aware, from the statements I have made in this house since the recent disturbances began, of how profoundly the government regrets and deplors the tragic situation which prevails in that country. I should add, too, that the views that have been expressed in this chamber in recent days have been made known to the representative of South Africa in Ottawa, and I do not consider at the moment that any beneficial purpose would be served by doing as suggested by the Leader of the Opposition; for, whatever one's feelings may be, a sense of responsibility demands that we should not act in such a way as to exacerbate the prevailing situation.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### INQUIRY AS TO INTRODUCTION OF VOTING MACHINE

On the orders of the day:

**Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, as one member who is very concerned with some of the aspects of the development of automation in modern society, I wish to address a question to the Prime Minister.

In view of the invitation extended to members of the House of Commons by a very prominent British Columbia member of the Progressive Conservative party to attend a demonstration of an electronic roll call machine, given this morning by a representative of the International Roll Call Corporation of Richmond, Virginia, United States of America, will the Prime Minister inform the house whether the government is considering voting arrangements for the House of Commons which will make it unnecessary for members to stand up and be counted?

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, I may point out that the invitation extended to the hon. gentleman and his acceptance was by a private member, and in no way suggested that the government is considering such voting arrangements. However, this is one subject that might be appropriately discussed by the rules committee when it is set up, for the purpose of ascertaining whether its adoption would accelerate or expedite the proceedings of the house.