

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate chamber.

In the Senate chamber, the Deputy Governor General was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bill:

Bill C-231, an act to provide for the resumption and continuation of longshoring and grain handling operations and operations related to longshoring or grain handling at ports on the west coast of Canada.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

After which the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close 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:

The fourth session of the twenty-eighth Parliament was opened on February 17, 1972. Since that time you have enacted legislation and approved government actions of great importance to the prosperity and well-being of the Canada of to-day and of the future.

During this session, Canadians were honoured by a visit to Ottawa by the President of the United States and were encouraged by this reaffirmation of our traditional friendship with our closest neighbours.

Canada has continued to develop its relationships with all nations, great and small, in all spheres, economic, social, and political.

At home, our economy has continued to grow and has produced new employment at a rate exceeding that of any industrialized nation. During this session you have had placed before you measures designed to stimulate still further the economic growth of our land.

Prorogation of Parliament

In this session you have addressed yourselves to the complexities of the Canadian federal democracy and have approved the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements Act.

You have also continued your work on behalf of the agricultural community. While the government has expanded our international markets for farm products, Parliament has amended the Farm Credit Act and the Canadian Wheat Board Act.

The social environment of Canada has been of much concern to you during this session. You have enacted amendments to the Criminal Law and the Government has announced its intentions to make more modern its policies on the control of the use of drugs. Both the Opportunities for Youth Program and the Local Initiatives Program have been expanded and continued. The Government has also announced a New Horizons for the aged program. As further support for our older citizens, you have enacted a measure to increase the Old Age Security pensions.

During this session you have also approved two measures to improve the benefits provided for veterans and other persons affected by war.

You have been particularly concerned with the problems of industrialization. You have amended the Canada Labour Code as well as the Adult Occupational Training Act.

You have also been called upon to deal expeditiously with two serious industrial disputes and you have enacted measures to protect the national interest in those incidents.

During this session, both Houses of Parliament have permitted their Committees to continue the important task of reviewing government policy and administration.

Many other important initiatives have been approved. In addition, you have had placed before you measures concerning the national anthem, national parks, fair employment practices, income security, mortgage mechanisms, housing, representation election expenses and many other important matters. In the future Parliament must apply itself with great vigour and diligence to these issues and to others as they develop.

Members of the House of Commons:

I thank you for the provision you have made for the public services in the previous and in the current fiscal year.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence continue to bless our country.

This concluded the fourth session of the twenty-eighth parliament.
