

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Speaker: The Honourable L. René Beaudoin

Monday, November 26, 1956

FOURTH (SPECIAL) SESSION—TWENTY-SECOND PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued on the fourteenth day of August, 1956, met this day at Ottawa for the dispatch of business.

The house met at 2.30 o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the secretary to the Governor General, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at 2.30 o'clock on this day for the purpose of formally opening the special 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.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

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 the 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:

You have been summoned at this time because of the serious international situation arising out of hostilities in the Middle East and the events in Hungary.

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Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to provide expressly that the provision for defence expenditures in the Appropriation Act No. 6, 1956, be used for the purposes of Canada's participation in the United Nations emergency force for the Middle East in fulfilment of our country's obligations to the United Nations Organization under the charter. You will also be requested to authorize the provision of relief for the victims of the recent tragic events in Hungary.

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

May divine Providence continue to protect this nation, and to guide the parliament of Canada in all its deliberations.

TRIBUTES TO DECEASED MEMBERS

THE LATE SYBIL BENNETT—THE LATE THOMAS H. ROSS

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, until quite recently we had reason to have high hopes that the then next session of parliament would open without having to deplore the passing of any hon. member of this house. Then it was with deep sorrow that we learned of the death of two of our esteemed colleagues, of Miss Sybil Bennett on November 12 and of Mr. Tom Ross on November 20.

Unfortunately Miss Bennett was in ill health practically from the beginning of her parliamentary career and only because of her courage, which can be truly called heroic, was she able to continue her public duties. When she returned to the chamber last May we were all hopeful that her health had been restored and that she would be able to take a more active part in our deliberations.

Miss Bennett, as we know, was descended on both sides of her family from United Empire Loyalist stock and she was proud of her ancestry. She was also justly pleased to have been related to a former prime minister of Canada, the late Right Hon. R. B. Bennett.

Miss Bennett was elected in the general election of 1953 for the constituency of Halton and when parliament met later that year we were all delighted to welcome another honourable lady member to our midst, particularly one who had earned such a fine