

Speech from the Throne

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate, addressing the Honourable the Speaker of the House of Commons, then said:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that he 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, he 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 His Excellency upon all reasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

Then His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open parliament by a speech from the throne.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to report that, the house having attended on His Excellency the Governor General in the Senate chamber, I informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker had fallen upon me, and, in your names, and on your behalf, I made the usual claim for your privileges, which His Excellency was pleased to confirm to you.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and 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:

I welcome you to this first session of the twenty fifth parliament of Canada.

I know I speak for all Canadians when I say how pleased we were to have Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother with us again. Her warmth and charm have added to the loyalty and affection for the crown and our Queen.

This spring His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh spent several weeks here in connection with his second study conference on the human consequences of the changing industrial environment in the commonwealth and empire. Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, during her stay in Canada last June, carried out her program of engagements with simplicity and grace.

Canada has been honoured in the last few days by a visit from the President of Pakistan, His Excellency Ayub Khan, who accompanied my

Prime Minister on his return from the commonwealth conference. We were happy to greet this distinguished leader of a great commonwealth nation and to discuss with him matters of mutual interest.

Since we last met in this chamber my wife and I have visited many parts of Canada and have received at Government House a great number of societies and organizations, including representatives of student groups and youth movements. We have been deeply impressed with the expressions of loyalty to the crown by people in all walks of life.

The meeting of commonwealth prime ministers just concluded has again provided an opportunity for frank discussions at the highest level and a demonstration of the close relationship which distinguishes this unique association of free nations. Canada joined in welcoming four new self governing members of the commonwealth—Sierra Leone, Tanganyika, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The commonwealth conference discussed Britain's negotiations with the European economic community and the economic and political implications for the commonwealth and its members of possible British accession to the community. Canada has a vital concern in these issues and the government will spare no effort to safeguard the interests of Canada while preserving the unity and strength of the commonwealth as a whole.

Far reaching changes are taking place in the trading relationships between nations and groups of nations. New opportunities are opening up for fruitful negotiations to reduce the barriers to trade on a general, non-discriminatory basis. My government believes and has proposed that these important subjects should receive comprehensive consideration at a conference of representatives of like minded nations.

Canada has continued to play an increasingly effective role in international affairs. The division of Germany and the position of Berlin remain a source of friction despite continuing efforts to find a basis for a negotiated settlement. So long as the communist powers continue actions that bring tension and distrust, Canada's defensive capability must be maintained both at home and on the frontiers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Europe and in the Atlantic.

The threat of war can be eliminated only by reaching effective international agreement on disarmament verified by means that inspire confidence. Canada will persist in its efforts to achieve this end.

Canadians have noted with satisfaction the establishment by the United Nations and the food and agriculture organization, of a world food program based on a proposal put forward by my ministers. You will be asked to authorize a Canadian contribution to this program.

My government will ask you, as a significant step in rounding out the concept of confederation, to consider a resolution to provide for the "repatriation" of the constitution of Canada and to invite the concurrence of the provinces to this end.

As another means of making manifest the Canadian identity, my government will invite the provinces to a conference for consultation regarding the choice of a national flag and other national symbols.

Measures will be placed before you to provide for the division of the Northwest Territories into two territories, and to provide more self government for the residents of that area as a step toward the ultimate creation of new provinces in Canada's great north.

You will be requested to enact measures to give effect, with modifications, to certain of the recommendations of the royal commission on publications.