

*Speech from the Throne*

dynamic and outward looking is vital to the success of Canada's international endeavours and to our ability to contribute to the well-being of fellow Commonwealth countries and of those states in receipt of Canadian economic assistance including the fellow members of l'Agence de Coopération culturelle et technique des pays francophones to whose important conference we acted with pride as host last autumn. The Government and all Canadians anticipate with considerable pleasure the visit to Canada this spring of the President of the United States and Mrs. Nixon.

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Our age is marked by inconsistency. Within our societies, the trend all too often is toward increases in size and of impersonality in human relationships while on the planet itself the speed of communication has created a new intimacy among nations. In these circumstances, there is both challenge and opportunity for governments and for individuals. Canada is seized of the challenge. The Government pledges itself to turn the opportunities to the benefit of individual Canadians.

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*Members of the House of Commons:*

During this Session, you will be asked to grant the necessary funds for the services and expenditures authorized by Parliament.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

The Prime Minister will lay before you today a list of bills that will be submitted to you during the Session.

May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.

[*Translation*]

**Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister)** moved:

That the speech of His Excellency the Governor General, delivered this day from the Throne to both Houses of Parliament, be taken into consideration later this day.

[*English*]

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words on the motion just presented by the Prime Minister. I should also like to move an amendment to it. I realize that the amendment I shall propose may seem to ask for something that is a bit unusual on the first day of a session. However, may I point out that in actual fact this is the second day in a row that we are here and, with the way things are now planned, there will be no question period and no opportunity for members of the House to say anything until we are present on the third day. Since there was no question period yesterday, I believe there should be one today. I therefore move, seconded by the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch):

That the motion be amended by adding at the end thereof the following words: "immediately after a forty minute oral question period, as provided by Standing Order 15".

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The House has heard the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre. As hon. members may suspect, obviously there are some procedural difficulties connected with an amendment of this type. It might be construed, I suggest to the House, as a substantive motion. However, I should not like to rule on it immediately. If hon. members want to give their views, I will hear them and then rule on whether the amendment proposed by the hon. member is in order.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, may I first point out that the motion that was proposed by the Prime Minister must have been moved with the consent of the House. The Prime Minister moved it without

[Mr. Speaker.]

having given any advance notice. It might be suggested that there was no opportunity for him to do this; however, under the new rules he could have done so. Therefore I take it that he has moved it under the provisions of Standing Order 43 and has had the consent of the House to do so. The motion having been moved, it is a debatable motion and therefore an amendable motion. I point out that it must be the kind of motion that is referred to in Standing Order 32(p), namely, a motion for "the arrangement of its proceedings", the proceedings of the House.

May I also point out, Sir, that Standing Order 15 provides the order of business for each day of the House. This is a Thursday. On Thursday, according to Standing Order 15, immediately after routine proceedings we are supposed to have oral questions for 40 minutes. The motion that the Prime Minister moved, of which he gave no notice and which the House allowed him to present, would set aside that right of the House on Thursday for an oral question period of 40 minutes. I submit, therefore, that since the question of the proceedings of the House for today, brought before us by the motion, has been brought before us in a way that is out of the ordinary, it is proper for the House to ask that the Standing Order be adhered to and that there be a question period.

Your Honour suggested that my amendment might be a substantive motion. I suggest that the substance of a question period is not introduced by my motion. That is already there, in Standing Order 15. I am simply asking for one of the rights and privileges of the House to be respected. That is why I ask that the words of any amendment be added to the motion so that we can proceed to consider the Speech from the Throne later this day, as the Prime Minister suggested, after we have had a regular, 40 minute oral question period.

**Mr. G. W. Baldwin (Peace River):** Mr. Speaker, I will not attempt to enlarge on the procedural arguments advanced by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles). I will content myself with saying to Your Honour and the House that, as Your Honour will have gathered from what we attempted to do yesterday, I am substantially and thoroughly in agreement with the hon. member. I ask Your Honour, in considering your approach to this matter, to be vigilant in trying to find ways and means in order that the House should not be deprived for a second day in a row of its right to ask questions of the government.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue):** Mr. Speaker, aside from the procedural aspect, I consider quite reasonable the suggestion brought forward by the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) to the effect that we should have a question period today. The right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) could well accede to this suggestion of the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre in order to avoid unnecessary discussion and so that we could, by unanimous agreement, have a 40-minute question period immediately upon resumption of the proceedings, if Your Honour so authorizes.

In any case, we consider the suggestion to be quite valid and most reasonable.