

Prorogation of Parliament

bers that this might be an exercise in futility. This would be done, of course, without putting a motion and without a vote. Hon. members must realize that the Chair has the power simply to order at this point that strangers withdraw from the chamber. I suggest to hon. members that it would not be proper for the Chair to take this initiative at this stage.

I did bring to the attention of hon. members right at the start of our proceedings this afternoon that it is a long established practice, both in this chamber and in Westminster, that when a summons, manifested by a knock on the door, comes to us from the other place it is the duty of the Chair to admit the messenger and to ascertain what the message is that he carries from the other place.

Mr. Baldwin: On that point, Mr. Speaker, at Westminster this practice has now been changed because of affronts of this kind. Now a written statement is given on royal assent. May I conclude by saying that in view of this fact I urge that the Speaker take note of this particular issue and seek advice on whether or not the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod should come into this chamber without the consent of the chamber.

• (2:10 p.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Without entering into a debate with hon. members, may I say that since the notices of this question were received I have studied the precedents very closely and I could not find a single precedent which would justify the Chair, on behalf of hon. members, refusing admission to the chamber to the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as the messenger on behalf of His Excellency's representative. We will admit the messenger.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

A message was delivered by Major A. G. Vandelay, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, it is the desire of the Right Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General that this honourable House attend him immediately in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

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

Whereupon the Deputy Governor General was pleased to close the third session of the twenty-eighth parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The third session of the twenty-eighth Parliament was opened on October 8, 1970. The 496 days that have elapsed since that time represents the longest period in history to pass between the opening and the prorogation of a session of the Parliament of Canada. During this period, the Senate has held 138 sittings, more than in any other session, and the House of Commons has held 244. You have enacted much important legislation and approved many government actions of great significance for Canadians.

During this session, Canada was honoured by the visit of Her Majesty the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Anne, all of whom participated in the celebrations of the Centenary of the Province of British Columbia.

[Mr. Speaker.]

The session began at a time when the peace and order of the nation was threatened. You approved actions to deal with these dangers and as a result the use of violence to attain unlawful objectives was discouraged and the rule of law maintained.

In the sphere of external relations, the Government has continued its policy of seeking new friends while strengthening relations with old ones. Canada exchanged ambassadors with the People's Republic of China and voted at the United Nations to install the Peking Government in the China seat. The Prime Minister visited the Soviet Union and in return the Soviet Premier visited Canada. The Prime Minister and his colleagues received the Presidents of Yugoslavia, Nauru and Niger; the Prime Ministers of the United Kingdom, Ceylon, Ghana, Malaysia, Fiji, Senegal, and Israel; the Foreign Ministers of France, Ireland, Roumania, Trinidad and Tobago, and Poland; and the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The Prime Minister visited the United States and the President of the United States has indicated that he will visit Ottawa this year.

Consistent with Canada's desire for closer relations with the countries of Latin America and with its determination to assume a more positive role in the Western Hemisphere, the Government applied for, and was accorded Permanent Observer status within the Organization of American States.

Aware of the significance for the world as a whole and for Canada in particular of the enlargement of the European Economic Community, Ministers have had frequent consultations with the European Economic Commission, the Government of the United Kingdom and the governments of member countries. The Prime Minister and his colleagues also received the President of the European Economic Commission.

The Government signed a Protocol on Consultations with the Soviet Union and entered into agreements for scientific and technological exchanges with Belgium, the Federal German Republic and the Soviet Union.

In furtherance of the priority Canadians have accorded to disarmament and arms control in the maintenance of world security, the Government has continued to take a leading part in the work of the Committee of the Conference on Disarmament, particularly in the efforts to reach a comprehensive Test Ban that would prohibit the testing of nuclear devices in the atmosphere, the oceans and underground.

To assist the developing nations of the world you have increased the total aid budget. In the recent tragic events in India and Pakistan, the Government moved quickly and effectively to bring humanitarian relief to the refugees in India and to assist in the rehabilitation of the war torn area.

Conscious of the need to explain to Canadians the changes taking place in defence policy and in defence planning for the future, the Government tabled in the House of Commons a White Paper on Defence.

In the past year, the growth rate of Canada's real Gross National Product has exceeded that of any industrialized country in the world. The rate, too, at which Canadians entered the work force surpassed that of all industrial nations. It is a matter of continuing concern to the Government that the rapid increase in the labour force has left many Canadians without work notwithstanding the impressive increase in the number of jobs created. The rise in output and in employment has been attained, however, without jeopardizing Canada's unmatched achievements in the area of price stability.

You have had to deal with some unusually difficult economic problems including a major crisis of the international monetary system. You passed the Employment Support Act to assist companies adversely affected by the temporary import surtax of the United States. In order to ensure continuing expansion of the economy, increasing employment and decreasing unemployment, the Government invoked a series of measures including a reduction of individual and corporate income taxes. To meet the special requirements of certain segments of our population, stimulate employment and encourage initiatives at the local level, Opportunities for Youth and Local Initiatives Programs were implemented.