

*Royal Assent*

of double dealing—to say that after this matter was brought up Your Honour made certain observations about it, and for that reason I feel that we should acquiesce in the position taken by Your Honour. Therefore, I do not feel I would wish to agree to give unanimous consent, and in doing that I hope I will not be misunderstood.

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret that unanimous consent is not given and that I cannot receive the motion. Unless there is some other business we will suspend the session till the call from the other place.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Did I understand Your Honour to say that we would suspend this session, or are you considering some documents before you before we proceed further?

**Mr. Speaker:** At this time of night free interpretation I believe is given to ordinary words on some occasions. If I said "session" I certainly meant "sitting". Usually it is customary to break for a visitor from the other place, but I might read this announcement now.

**THE ROYAL ASSENT**

**Mr. Speaker:** I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Government House  
Ottawa, December 21, 1963.

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber at ten o'clock p.m. today, December 21, 1963, for the purpose of proroguing the first session of the twenty sixth parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,  
sir

Your obedient servant,

A. B. Cherrier,

Assistant Secretary to  
the Governor General

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Before Your Honour leaves the chair or suspends the sitting, whatever the proper technical term is, I do not imagine that anyone can call me to order at this stage for anything I say, however foolish. But I do want to say how very much I have appreciated the co-operation of those members of other parties who have met with me regularly throughout the session to try to arrange the business of this first session of a new parliament in which no party had a majority, in which some problems arose which were not even expected when the session began, and where, notwithstanding some of the things we may have said to and about one another in the course of debate, a good deal has been

accomplished and the order paper has been brought to a pretty satisfactory state at the end. This would not have been possible, sir, without the regular consultation and co-operation which hon. gentlemen opposite have given to me in the management of the business of the house, and I appreciate very much what they have done. I appreciate too the fact that we have been able in these last three weeks to arrange the business of the house, to arrange the sittings to dispose of the business without once having had a motion put to settle sitting hours.

I should also like to say that I believe this parliament has now become accustomed to itself and we have become accustomed to each other, and that it will be a great deal easier in another session for us to get down to business and dispatch the business we are all sent here to do, and perhaps even to criticize to the satisfaction of some members of the press.

[Translation]

And I must say, Mr. Chairman, in the other official language of the country, that I greatly appreciate the co-operation given to me by all members.

[Text]

**Hon. George C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings):** It is usual at this hour of night before we approach the other place for prorogation to make certain good wishes, congratulations and expressions of mutual respect. This is all the more fitting on an occasion such as this when we are not only approaching prorogation but are also on the verge of the Christmas season.

I am sure the leader of the house will understand, when he says that we are getting adjusted to each other, that these adjustments must be on a somewhat temporary basis. As I told the Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon) when we were wishing each other a merry Christmas—I wished him a very merry Christmas and a very happy new year, but one not too prolonged in the forthcoming year. Possibly we have to bear some of these things in mind. Seriously, on this occasion I wish to say that we reciprocate what the leader of the house has said about the co-operation which has gone on, despite the criticism. We started in a rough parliament last spring. I think it is true that the Tories were mad and the Liberals were cocky, and it took us a while to get adjusted. But following the series of disasters which they faced, we felt better and I doubt whether any parliament has worked better than this one has in the last few weeks or months since we came back from the summer recess. I am sure that as long as we continue as a parliament this spirit will continue.