

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Wednesday, October 11, 1978

FOURTH SESSION—THIRTIETH PARLIAMENT—OPENING

[Translation]

The parliament, which had been prorogued on the tenth day of October, 1978, met this day at Ottawa for the dispatch of business.

The House met at 3 p.m., the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Secretary to the Governor General, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the main entrance of the Parliament Buildings at 2.45 p.m. on this day, Wednesday, the 11th of October 1978, and when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the chamber of the Senate to open formally the fourth session of the thirtieth Parliament of Canada.

[English]

A message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod as follows:

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

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

● (1542)

And being returned to the Commons chamber:

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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House of Commons 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:

[Translation]

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

I have the honour to welcome you to the fourth session of the thirtieth Parliament of Canada.

During the course of the past summer Her Majesty The Queen came to visit Newfoundland and Saskatchewan, and to open the Commonwealth Games. She joined all Canadians in congratulating the thousands of volunteer workers who helped make the Games so successful, and with all of us she applauded the remarkable achievements of Canadian athletes at Edmonton.

The Duke of Edinburgh visited British Columbia as well, where His Royal Highness took part in the two hundredth anniversary observance of Captain Cook's voyage to the Pacific coast.

[Text]

My wife and I paid an official visit to the King and Queen of Spain, who welcomed us most hospitably. Through us, Spain expressed its friendship and high regard for all Canadians.

As the end of my term of office approaches, my wife and I would like to thank parliamentarians and the people of Canada for the respect and affection which they have extended to us on countless occasions over the years.

We wish also to express our love for Canada. A great country is not created without difficulty, but to see it develop and grow stronger despite every obstacle has been for us a source of great joy and pride. Our faith in the future of Canada is stronger than it has ever been.

I: Urgent Action Needed

Parliament begins today a new session which will concentrate upon Canada's two most pressing needs. They are the strengthening of our economy, and the renewal of our federation.

Those two inseparable imperatives are different expressions of the same goal: to strengthen Canada through unity; to unify Canada through economic strength.

Seldom in the past have the seriousness of the challenge, the strength of our national will, and the scope of our opportunities combined to create for Canada a moment in history so full of potential for good. Such a moment, if ignored, may not soon come again. That is one reason why you should approach your task with urgency.

Another is the legitimate expectation of the people of Canada in these difficult times. They expect their parliament to respond to their most urgent needs with insight, with action, and with a minimum of delay.

You will therefore be asked to focus your efforts upon the priority areas of the economy and the renewal of the federation.

To that end, the government has prepared over the past few months a detailed plan of action. It is designed to increase confidence in the essential health and potential of the economy, and to strengthen the bonds which unite us in one Canadian community.

II: Economic Policy Background

The economic initiatives announced by the Government in August will intensify the assault upon unemployment and inflation.

Those initiatives will further restrain government spending, stimulate economic growth, and give more assistance to those in need. They carry forward commitments made by the government in 1976 with the publication of *The Way Ahead*. Many of those commitments were endorsed by the First Ministers' Conference in February of this year.

First Ministers agreed to help the private sector to lead the way toward accelerated economic growth. They also reached agreement on important medium-term economic objectives.

In July of this year, Canada was a participant in the Bonn Summit Conference. There the leaders of the major industrialized countries of the free world