

Opening of Session

that, then I will finish the role a happier man than I began it.

[Translation]

I would like to thank all the hon. members, and particularly the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent) and the hon. member for Témiscamingue (Mr. Caouette). Upon undertaking as important a task as this, it is absolutely essential that one have the support and the good will of all the hon. members, and if I manage to perform or endeavour to perform my task without losing the respect of my colleagues, not only shall I be happy, I shall also be proud.

[English]

I again thank all hon. members for their very kind remarks, and for the great honour that they have conferred upon me in choosing me to be their Speaker.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

SITTING SUSPENDED

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I suggest that this sitting be suspended until three o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the suggestion of the right hon. member. Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: This House stands suspended until three o'clock this afternoon.

At 11.20 a.m. the sitting was suspended until 3 p.m. this day.

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at three o'clock.

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OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's secretary announcing that His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada would proceed to the Senate chamber at three o'clock on this day for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is the pleasure of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada 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. Then the Hon. James Jerome, Speaker of the House of Commons, said:

[Mr. Speaker.]

● (1600)

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Commons have elected me their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me.

If in the performance of those duties I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons, whose servant I am, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that they may have freedom of speech in their debates, access to Your Excellency's person at all reasonable times, and that their proceedings may receive from Your Excellency the most favourable construction.

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 Administrator of the Government of Canada 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 Administrator of the Government of Canada was pleased to open parliament by a speech from the throne.

And the House being returned to the Commons chamber:

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to report that, the House having attended on His Excellency the Administrator 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.

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OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

[English]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that when the House did attend His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada 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 have the honour to welcome you to the First Session of the 30th Parliament of Canada.

I am here today in my capacity as Administrator of the Government of Canada, duties which I assumed following the illness suffered by