

*The Royal Assent*

of the chair. I take it that those kind words may signify that I am absolved, at least conditionally, from all the mistakes I have made during this past session.

Is it now the wish that this sitting be suspended until 12.40?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

At 12.28 p.m. the sitting was suspended.

## SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at 12.40 p.m.

**THE ROYAL ASSENT**

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

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

In the Senate chamber, the Administrator of the Government of Canada was pleased to give, in Her Majesty's name, the royal assent to the following bills:

- An act to amend the Radio Act.
- An act to amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act.
- An act to amend the Income Tax Act.
- An act to amend the Excise Tax Act.
- An act to amend the Income Tax Act, the Railway Act and the Tariff Board Act in respect of salaries of certain public officials.
- An act to amend the Transport Act.
- An act to amend the Customs Tariff.
- An act to amend the Defence Production Act.
- An act to amend the St. Lawrence Seaway Authority Act.
- An act for the relief of Donald John McGillivray.

To these bills the royal assent was pronounced by the Clerk of the Senate in the following words:

In Her Majesty's name the Honourable the Administrator doth assent to these bills.

Then the Speaker of the House of Commons addressed His Excellency the Administrator as follows:

May it please Your Honour:

The Commons of Canada have voted supplies required to enable the government to defray certain expenses of the public service.

In the name of the Commons I present to Your Honour the following bill:

An act for granting to Her Majesty certain sums of money for the public service of the financial year ending the 31st March, 1955.

To which bill I humbly request Your Honour's assent.

To this bill the Clerk of the Senate, by command of His Excellency the Administrator, did thereupon say:

In Her Majesty's name the Honourable the Administrator thanks her loyal subjects, accepts their benevolence, and assents to this bill.

[Mr. Speaker.]

**PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT**

After which the Administrator was pleased to close the second session of the twenty-second parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

Since we first met earlier this year there has been considerable evidence that the policies of the free nations to combine their strength in order to deter any threat from a potential aggressor have been successful. My ministers believe that the more encouraging signs of international harmony are proof of the wisdom of the measures thus taken in co-operation with other democracies. While continuing to support the United Nations and to use all available diplomatic channels for the easing of international tensions, they remain convinced of the necessity of continuing to improve the combined defence power of the North Atlantic alliance. Towards the fulfilment of this aim you have approved the Paris agreements which ended the occupation of Western Germany and which enabled the German Federal Republic to join the defensive alliance of the West.

During the session several of my ministers met with representatives of the ten provincial governments to make arrangements for a federal-provincial conference which will take place this autumn.

Meetings between the federal and provincial representatives were held in June for the purpose of determining a plan to share the costs of assistance to unemployed persons in need. The suggestions put forward at these meetings are now being studied by the provincial governments and the acceptances of three of them have already been received.

In the early months of the session the employment situation gave some concern but more recently the requests for labour have greatly increased and the expanding production, rising exports and prospects of bountiful crops indicate a continuing healthy state of the Canadian economy.

Because the economic well-being of the nation depends to such an extent on a high level of foreign trade, the government has pursued policies aimed at securing the most favourable export markets for the products of our labour and our land. At the international review of the general agreement on tariffs and trade which took place last fall and winter, Canadian delegates were active in supporting a policy of removing trade restrictions and negotiating improved tariff arrangements.

A substantial revision of the Unemployment Insurance Act has been made in the light of past experience with this legislation. The coverage of the act has been broadened, the periods of entitlement to benefits revised and the amount of both regular and supplementary benefits augmented.

To maintain the high standards of welfare measures in this country you have made amendments to the Blind Persons Act, the War Veterans Allowance Act and the Veterans Benefit Act.

Legislation has been enacted to provide for the inspection of meat and the establishment of standards for other agricultural products.

The amendments made to the Municipal Grants Act increase substantially the amounts to be paid by the government annually to the municipalities for their services to public buildings.

The various enactments relating to the Canadian National Railways have been consolidated in one statute.