

SITTING RESUMED

The House resumed at 3 p.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's Secretary announcing that Her Excellency the Governor General 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 Claude Lajoie, Esq., Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, it is the pleasure of Her Excellency the Governor General, that this honourable House attend her immediately in the Chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the House went up to the Senate Chamber. Then the Hon. John Bosley, Speaker of the House of Commons, said:

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 seasonable 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 Her Excellency the Governor General to declare to you that she 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, she 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 Her Excellency upon all seasonable occasions, and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from her the most favourable construction.

Then Her Excellency the Governor General of Canada was pleased to open Parliament by a Speech from the Throne.

● (1610)

And the House being returned to the Commons Chamber:

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to report that, the House having attended on Her Excellency the Governor General in the Senate Chamber, I informed Her 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 Her Excellency was pleased to confirm to you.

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OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill C-1 respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Speech from the Throne

Motion agreed to, Bill read the first time and ordered to be printed.

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SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that when this House did attend Her Excellency the Governor General in the Senate Chamber, Her 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:

It is with great pride and pleasure that I welcome you, in my capacity as the Canadian representative of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, to this, the First Session of the thirty-third Parliament of Canada.

Canadians rejoiced this year in the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip to the bicentennial celebrations in New Brunswick and Ontario, and to several communities in Manitoba. For Canadians the Monarchy is a precious link to the centuries of history and tradition that form our parliamentary democracy. The Crown symbolizes our democratic values, and helps safeguard the freedom and liberty that are the foundation of our system. The Queen as Head of the Commonwealth personifies the common bond of that association of nations and its ideals. An example to all who would serve, hers is a life consecrated to service.

Earlier this fall Canadians from coast to coast had the unique privilege of greeting His Holiness Pope John Paul II. The welcome accorded His Holiness expressed our respect and esteem. It also reflected the spirit of fraternity and generosity that exists in a Canadian society of diverse races and creeds. Pope John Paul's visit has helped Canadians to see anew that the enhancement of justice and peace can be a reality at home, and must be our vocation in the world. For this, and for his moral and spiritual leadership, Canadians express their heartfelt appreciation.

In these first months of my tenure as Governor General, I, too, have been afforded the wonderful opportunity to travel to the various regions of this beautiful land. The warmth and enthusiasm of the reception I have received from Canadians in Quebec, New Brunswick, and most recently in my home province of Saskatchewan, has touched me deeply, and I look forward with great anticipation to completing my tour of the provinces and territories. It becomes increasingly clear with each passing day that the confidence I hold in the strength, character and goodness of Canadians is well-founded and that we are indeed a rich and privileged nation.

Canadians take pride in the participation of the first Canadian astronaut, Commander Marc Garneau, in the Challenger space shuttle program. His voyage is the latest, and most exciting, of recent Canadian contributions to the conquest of space. We welcome the opportunity to cooperate with the United States in their space program. As a result, Canadians are playing a part in achieving the great benefits to humanity that space exploration can make possible.

In July, all Canadians rejoiced in the brilliant performance of our athletes at the Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles. My government salutes the hard work and dedication of our athletes, coaches and officials. Their excellence serves as a model of national achievement for all Canadians.

Reconciliation and National Unity

This is the inauguration of a new Parliament. Let it be also the beginning of a new era of national reconciliation, economic renewal and social justice. In this spirit, my Ministers will honour the mandate entrusted to them by the people of Canada.

While there are no easy solutions to the great problems facing our country, there is a new will among Canadians to make a fresh start in the search for answers. For the first time in many years all regions of the country are represented in a national government. The mandate received by my Ministers is a magnificent opportunity to build a renewed national consensus.