

Opening of the Session

protecting the rights of every individual member. I ask for your patience and co-operation in our joint endeavours, and pray that I may be guided in fulfilling my duties in such a way that I may do justice to all hon. members and to this house whose servant I am.

(Translation):

Hon. members of the House of Commons, I thank you most sincerely for the honour you are conferring upon me and for the great token of esteem and confidence you are giving me. I must admit most humbly that I do not possess all the qualities that you were good enough to see in me. I shall strive nevertheless to act in all circumstances with the same dignity, firmness and fairness shown by my predecessors in the chair.

I shall always keep in mind that the fruits of freedom have matured, so to speak, with the help of tradition in the flowery garden of parliamentary procedure whose origin goes back to the Anglo-Norman monarchy. Inherited from our common ancestors, the duality of language and culture which proceeds naturally and normally from this tradition and this freedom is nowhere more evident than in the Canadian parliament. And furthermore, we must remember also that it is enshrined forever in our constitution.

As for the future, I sincerely hope that with your co-operation, I shall succeed in maintaining in this house the proprieties, rights and privileges that we have inherited from the past.

Hon. members of the House of Commons, I thank you once again from the very bottom of my heart.

(Text):

SITTING SUSPENDED

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, before making the suggestion which I wish to make I should like to congratulate you on your selection as Speaker of this house. I feel certain that you will conduct yourself in such a way as to strengthen the feeling of the desirability of permanence in the speakership to which the right hon. gentleman opposite referred this morning with such great approval, and which is a matter which can be discussed in the committee on procedure which I hope the house will be setting up without any delay. But I cannot hold out any hope to you for any move by this government which will exempt you from income tax, because of the terrific deficit which we have inherited from the last government.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the sitting be suspended until 3 p.m. this day.

Mr. Speaker: The house has heard the suggestion of the Prime Minister that this sitting be suspended until three o'clock this day. Is it the pleasure of the house to concur in this suggestion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the sitting suspended until the ringing of the bells at 3 p.m. this day.

At 11.35 a.m. the sitting was suspended until 3 p.m. this day.

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at three o'clock.

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 C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, it is the pleasure of His Excellency the Administrator 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 Hon. Alan Macnaughton, 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 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 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.