

CANADA

The Debates of the Senate

OFFICIAL REPORT

THE SENATE

Thursday, February 16, 1950

The Parliament of Canada having been summoned by Proclamation of the Governor General to meet this day for the dispatch of business.

The Senate met at 11.30 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The Hon. the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Governor General's Secretary informing him that His Excellency the Governor General would arrive at the Main Entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 3 p.m., and, when it had been signified that all was in readiness, would proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Second Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada.

NEW SENATOR INTRODUCED

Hon. Vincent P. Burke, C.B.E., of St. John's, Newfoundland, introduced by Hon. W. McL. Robertson and Hon. A. B. Baird.

The Senate adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

SECOND SITTING

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

At three o'clock His Excellency the Governor General proceeded to the Senate Chamber and took his seat upon the Throne. His Excellency was pleased to command the attendance of the House of Commons, and that House being come, with their Speaker, His Excellency was pleased to open the Second Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The conference with representatives of the provincial governments forecast in my speech closing your last session was held in January. This conference marked a promising beginning in working

out a satisfactory procedure for making within Canada whatever amendments to the constitution may from time to time be required. Agreement was reached on certain general principles and a continuing committee was established to further the work of the conference.

The governments of all the provinces have also been invited to participate in a general conference between the federal and provincial governments early next autumn to consider other matters of mutual concern. The several provincial authorities have been asked to make suggestions as to the principal topics they will wish to have discussed at this conference.

In the meantime negotiations are proceeding with the provincial governments for the implementation of the legislation adopted at your last session respecting housing, a transcontinental highway and forest conservation.

The National Health Program has been extended to the province of Newfoundland and further satisfactory progress has been made, in co-operation with the provinces generally, in the development of more adequate health facilities and services.

In the international sphere, our country continues to give full support to the charter of the United Nations. A Canadian delegation is now attending a session of the Economic and Social Council to which Canada was elected at the last session of the General Assembly.

The recent conference in Ceylon of the foreign ministers of the nations of the commonwealth demonstrated that there is a continuing and substantial community of outlook among the nations of the commonwealth both in the East and the West in their approach to current problems of foreign affairs.

The measures for the preservation of peace and the restoration and maintenance of prosperity contemplated by the North Atlantic treaty are being devised and applied as expeditiously as circumstances permit. The wholehearted co-operation of all the signatories to the treaty is encouraging evidence of their determination to deter aggression by a combination of actual and potential strength calculated to remove the possibility of successful aggression.

The cold war nevertheless still continues and imposes on all the free nations heavy burdens for the provision of defence forces and modern armaments. Preparedness to meet any sudden onslaught is essential and the means must be provided. But the free nations also face a test of endurance, and our staying power could be endangered by attempting to achieve complete preparedness at the expense of our adaptability to new developments in weapons and techniques of warfare or the efficiency of our social and industrial systems.

In the development of Canada's defence forces, constant attention is being given to the best use of our resources, to the encouragement of joint research and experimental development and to the co-ordination of Canadian efforts with those of the other signatories of the North Atlantic treaty.

The measure to consolidate existing legislation respecting our defence forces and to provide for a purely Canadian disciplinary code to be made applicable to all the forces will be re-introduced.