

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Speaker: The Honourable W. Ross Macdonald

Tuesday, October 9, 1951

FIFTH SESSION—TWENTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued earlier this day met again at Ottawa for the dispatch of business.

The house met at three o'clock, the Speaker in the chair.

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's Secretary, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General 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, His Excellency the Governor General 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.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that when the house did attend His Excellency the Governor General 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:

As you resume your labours, our country is being honoured by the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. The public satisfaction at the speedy recovery of His Majesty the King which made possible the resumption of plans for the visit is heartening evidence of the deep attachment of the Canadian people to the crown.

The primary reason for summoning you for a second session in the present year is to invite your consideration of a measure to provide increased security for our older citizens through payment of pensions, without a means test and as a matter of right, to all Canadians with appropriate residence qualifications who are over the age of 70 years, and to establish a fund made up of special contributions levied for that purpose.

Registration of all persons 70 years of age and over has been successfully undertaken, and administrative preparations have already been well advanced to ensure, once the necessary legislation has been approved, the prompt payment from January, 1952, of pensions to all eligible persons. In the first year of its operation, it is estimated that more than seven hundred thousand persons will be eligible.

This measure for the well-being of our senior citizens is designed to complete the program of old age security announced by my government at the session earlier in this present year when legislation was enacted to provide for a federal contribution to assistance to persons between the ages of 65 and 70.

Our national effort to provide for the security of our country in co-operation with other peace-loving nations continues to receive the constant attention of my ministers.

Full support is being given to the Canadian forces in Korea where they are giving distinguished service in the United Nations' action to defeat aggression.

The north Atlantic nations are steadily increasing their combined strength in their determined effort to maintain peace by providing an effective deterrent to aggression in Europe. To this end an integrated force is being established under the command of General Eisenhower.

The plans for the dispatch to Europe of elements of the army and air force destined to form a part of the integrated force were announced at the last session. The measures which the government proposes at this time in furtherance of these plans will be communicated to you without delay.

You will be asked to approve the ratification of a protocol to enable an invitation to be extended to Greece and Turkey to join the North Atlantic alliance; and to consider a bill relating to the Canadian forces.