

this day Tuesday, the 18th January, 1966, and when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Chamber of the Senate to open formally the First Session of the Twenty-seventh Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ESMOND BUTLER,

*Secretary to the Governor General.*

The Honourable,

The Speaker of the House of Commons.

A Message was delivered by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod.

"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 Mr. Speaker spoke to the following effect:

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 then said:

"Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General 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 occasions, and that their proceedings as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction."

And the House being returned:

Mr. Speaker reported that the House had been in the Senate Chamber, and that he had, in their names and on their behalf, made the usual claim of privileges, which His Excellency had been pleased to confirm to them.