

## APPENDIX

## ADDRESS

of

HIS EXCELLENCY VINCENT AURIOL  
*President of the French Republic*

to

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
 AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

in the

HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBER, OTTAWA

on

Thursday, April 5, 1951

*The President of the French Republic was welcomed by the Right Honourable  
 L. S. St. Laurent, Prime Minister of Canada, and thanked by the  
 Honourable Elie Beauregard, Speaker of the Senate,  
 and the Honourable W. Ross Macdonald,  
 Speaker of the House of Commons.*

(Translation):

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. President, in the lives of nations and of parliaments, as in the lives of men, there are significant and unforgettable moments. Your presence today, within this Canadian House of Commons, marks such an occasion in the life of our parliament and of our country as a whole.

(Text):

It is a great honour, Mr. President, to welcome you today in this House of Commons chamber on behalf of the members of both houses of the parliament of Canada. We are happy to be able at the same time to greet the charming first lady of France and the Foreign Minister of the French republic, His Excellency Mr. Robert Schuman. You may be assured, sir, that this assembly is fully representative of all the people of Canada in the warmth of our welcome.

(Translation):

This is the first time that we have had the honour of welcoming to our country the chief of the French government. We rejoice at your visit and we are happy also that you have made this a family occasion, as well as a political one, by bringing with you Madame Auriol, who so fittingly represents the

domestic virtues, the charm and elegance of your country. We are happy also that you have brought with you Monsieur Robert Schuman, your Minister of Foreign Affairs, one of the great architects of European unity. Please allow me to associate, in the welcome we are extending to you, the names of Madame Auriol and Monsieur Schuman.

I extend this welcome on behalf of all of the people of Canada; first of all, on behalf of those of my race and yours, Mr. President, most of whom live in the great St. Lawrence valley, a valley where our common ancestors, in the belief that they were establishing a colony, founded a nation. I welcome you also on behalf of all Canadians, who, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, now make up a people bound by common national aspirations. Our people are proud of the honour of your friendship, a friendship of which I received such moving tokens from you and the people of Paris, only a few weeks ago.

It is fitting that this welcome should be given you in our parliament chamber where the whole country is represented. It is here indeed that the unity of our people daily finds expression. Here, in 1914 and in 1939, legislation was passed that brought Canadian soldiers to the defence of an ideal which we felt was so eminently upheld by your country.