

CANADA

# House of Commons Debates

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Speaker: The Honourable W. Ross Macdonald

### FIRST SESSION—TWENTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT

The twentieth parliament having been prorogued and dissolved by proclamation on Saturday, April 30, 1949, and writs having been issued and returned, a new parliament was summoned to meet for the dispatch of business on Thursday, September 15, 1949, and did accordingly meet on that day.

#### Thursday, September 15, 1949

This being the day on which parliament is convoked by proclamation of His Excellency the Governor General for the dispatch of business, and the members of the house being assembled:

Léon J. Raymond, Esquire, O.B.E., the Clerk of the House, read to the house a letter from the Assistant Secretary to the Governor General informing him that the Honourable Patrick Kerwin, in his capacity as Deputy Governor General, would proceed to the Senate chamber to open the first session of the twenty-first parliament of Canada on Thursday, the 15th of September, at twelve o'clock noon.

A message was delivered by Major C. R. Lamoureux, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

His Honour, the Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate chamber, when the Speaker of the Senate said:

Honourable Members of the Senate and Members of the House of Commons:

I have it in command to let you know that His Excellency the Governor General does not see fit to declare the causes of his summoning the present parliament of Canada until the Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law, but this afternoon, at the hour of three o'clock, His Excellency will declare the causes of calling this parliament.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

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#### ELECTION OF SPEAKER

MR. W. ROSS MACDONALD, MEMBER FOR THE  
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF BRANTFORD

**Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister):** Mr. Raymond, now that we who have been elected to this house to form a part of the twenty-first parliament of Canada have made our first formal bow to His Majesty's representative, and have been duly reminded of our obligations under the British North America Act, the moment has arrived for us to comply with the section of the act which requires the members elected to form a parliament after a general election, and, at the first opportune moment, to choose one of their number to be their Speaker.

Four years ago my predecessor, Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, as prime minister, gave an interesting résumé of the provisions of the law and the requirements of practice and tradition in the selection of a Speaker, together with a precise enumeration of the qualifications it was fitting to find in the member chosen for that high office. I shall not take time today to repeat what was said on that occasion, but any hon. member who wishes to have his memory refreshed will find that interesting review in the first issue of *Hansard* of the twentieth parliament.

I hope and believe that the nomination it will be my privilege to make for this high office will meet with the approval of all members of the house. I am quite sure it will meet with the hearty approval of all hon. members who in previous years had the privilege of sitting with the hon. member who