

RIDEAU HALL  
OTTAWA  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

October 9, 1979

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the Main Entrance of the Parliament Buildings at 2.45 p.m. on this day, Tuesday, the 9th of October 1979, 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 Thirty-first 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 Senate,  
Ottawa.

The Senate adjourned until 2.30 p.m.

SECOND SITTING

The Senate met at 2.30 p.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** As there is no business before the Senate, is it your pleasure, honourable senators, that the Senate do now adjourn during pleasure to await the arrival of His Excellency the Governor General?

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

At 2.45 p.m., His Excellency the Governor General having come and being seated upon the Throne—

**The Hon. the Speaker** said:

Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod,

You will proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that it is the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor General that they attend him immediately in the Senate Chamber.

The House of Commons being come,

**Their Speaker, the Hon. James Jerome,** said:

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Commons has 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 Hon. the Speaker of the Senate** answered:

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 seasonable occasions and that their proceedings, as well as your words and actions, will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

His Excellency the Governor General was then pleased to open the First Session of the Thirty-first Parliament with the following speech:

[*English*]

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

I have the honour to welcome you to the First Session of the 31st Parliament of Canada.

Canada has been honoured this year by visits from two members of the Royal Family. In April the Prince of Wales travelled to the west and north and to Toronto and Ottawa. In June and July Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother graciously undertook engagements in Halifax and Toronto. Members will be pleased to hear of Prince Philip's forthcoming brief visit this October in preparation for the Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Conference in Canada next spring. Meanwhile in November Princess Anne will fulfil engagements with the Canadian Save the Children Fund.

During this year I have had a most memorable opportunity to reinforce my appreciation of the beauty, variety and natural wealth of our country. My wife and I have experienced the warm welcome extended to us by each region in its own special way. We have paid official visits to all ten Provinces and the Northwest Territories, and we look forward to a visit before long to the Yukon Territory. We have also had periods of residence in The Citadel, Quebec, and in quarters made available in the Governor's House at Lower Fort Garry.

I am proud, in my capacity as representative of our gracious Sovereign Queen Elizabeth II, to participate in this important ceremony in the life of our nation, which brings together the three elements of the Parliament of Canada, the Crown, the Senate and the House of Commons.

I look forward to meeting the Members of this new Parliament.