

CANADA

House of Commons Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

Speaker: The Honourable W. Ross Macdonald

Thursday, February 16, 1950

SECOND SESSION—TWENTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT—OPENING

The parliament which had been prorogued on the tenth day of December, 1949, met this day 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 p.m. 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 the house went up to the Senate chamber.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

VACANCY

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that during the recess I received communications from several members informing me that the following vacancy had occurred in the representation, viz.:

Of the Hon. Colin William George Gibson, member for the electoral district of Hamilton West, consequent upon his acceptance of an office of emolument under the crown.

I accordingly issued my warrant to the chief electoral officer to make out a new writ of election for the said electoral district.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the traditional usage, I beg leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SPEECH

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:

The conference with representatives of the provincial governments forecast in my speech closing your last session was held in January. This conference marked a promising beginning in working out a satisfactory procedure for making within Canada whatever amendments to the constitution may from time to time be required. Agreement was reached on certain general principles and a continuing committee was established to further the work of the conference.

The governments of all the provinces have also been invited to participate in a general conference between the federal and provincial governments early next autumn to consider other matters of mutual concern. The several provincial authorities have been asked to make suggestions as to the principal topics they will wish to have discussed at this conference.

In the meantime negotiations are proceeding with the provincial governments for the implementation of the legislation adopted at your last session respecting housing, a transcontinental highway and forest conservation.

The national health program has been extended to the province of Newfoundland and further satisfactory progress has been made, in co-operation with the provinces generally, in the development of more adequate health facilities and services.

In the international sphere, our country continues to give full support to the charter of the United Nations. A Canadian delegation is now attending a session of the economic and social council to which Canada was elected at the last session of the general assembly.

The recent conference in Ceylon of the foreign ministers of the nations of the commonwealth demonstrated that there is a continuing and substantial community of outlook among the nations of the commonwealth both in the east and the west in their approach to current problems of foreign affairs.

The measures for the preservation of peace and the restoration and maintenance of prosperity contemplated by the North Atlantic treaty are being devised and applied as expeditiously as circumstances permit. The wholehearted co-operation of