

## THE SENATE

Tuesday, October 9, 1951

The Senate met at 11 a.m., the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers and routine proceedings.

## HIS MAJESTY THE KING

## EXPRESSION OF GOOD WISHES

**Hon. Wishart McL. Robertson:** Honourable senators, before His Honour the Speaker ordered a moment ago that the doors be opened, he led us all in our usual prayers, including the one for the health and well-being of His Majesty the King.

We have each one of us been so relieved at the constant good news of the King's progress towards a speedy recovery since the grave surgical operation which he underwent two weeks ago, that I am sure we would all wish His Honour the Speaker to convey to His Majesty, with the expression of our respectful duty and of our loyal devotion, our gratification at his constant progress towards recovery, and our sincere good wishes.

I venture to propose, with your permission, that we now give public expression to those sentiments by rising and singing together God Save the King.

*The Senators thereupon rose and sang "God Save the King".*

## PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

**The Hon. the Speaker** informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Assistant Secretary to the Governor General, acquainting him that the Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, would proceed to the Senate Chamber this day at 11.30 a.m. for the purpose of proroguing the present session of Parliament.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

The Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, the Deputy of the Governor General, having come and being seated at the foot of the Throne, and the House of Commons having been summoned and being come with their Speaker, the Right Honourable the Deputy

of the Governor General was pleased to close the Fourth Session of the Twenty-First Parliament of Canada with the following speech:

Honourable Members of the Senate:

Members of the House of Commons:

The people of Canada, in common with His Majesty's subjects elsewhere, were deeply concerned that the state of the King's health made a surgical operation necessary, and they rejoice at the rapid progress of the King's recovery.

My ministers are gratified that the world situation did not require the resumption of the session before the date originally set when you concluded your deliberations in June. The international situation continues nevertheless to give constant concern to the government.

In Korea, despite prolonged discussions, it has not yet been possible to arrange a cease-fire, and hostilities are continuing. To this United Nations' action to defeat aggression, our Canadian forces are making an effective contribution.

Since you adjourned, the state of war with Germany has been terminated by proclamation, and normal diplomatic relations have been established with the Federal Republic of Germany. A treaty of peace has been signed with Japan which you will be asked to approve at a forthcoming session.

While hostilities have been confined to restricted areas, the government is convinced that general peace can be assured only by the continued build-up of the combined strength of the free nations.

To this end, my ministers welcomed the holding in Ottawa of the most recent meeting of the Council of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Certain of the recommendations of the council will require to be considered at a future session.

Arrangements are now under discussion with India and Pakistan for certain projects to be financed from the contribution you approved to the Colombo Plan for Co-operative Economic Development in South and South East Asia.

You also made provision for a Canadian contribution to the United Nations relief and rehabilitation program in Korea.

At the outset of the session, you enacted a measure to vest in the Governor in Council additional powers which might be necessary to ensure adequate defence preparations to meet the emergency arising out of the present international situation.

The legislation to establish the Department of Defence Production has been implemented and the new department is in full operation.

Agreements are being worked out with the provincial governments to implement the measure you enacted to provide for federal contributions for the payment of old age assistance to those in need between sixty-five and seventy years of age. Registration is being proceeded with for universal contributory pensions to persons over seventy years of age to facilitate administration when the necessary legislation has been enacted.

You also enacted a separate measure respecting allowances for blind persons; as well as several measures extending the benefits of the Veterans' charter, and providing for an increase in pensions to certain groups of veterans and their dependents.

You authorized the provision of grants to universities and equivalent institutions of higher learning.

The requirement of the fiat in the case of Petitions of Right has been abolished.

The Indian Act was completely revised and the new legislation is now in operation. The Post Office Act was also extensively revised.

Other measures were enacted respecting grants to municipalities; the regulation of consumer credit; the grading of dairy products; the construction of a