

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Thursday, November 20, 1952

The house met at eleven o'clock.

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that I have received the following communication:

Ottawa, November 20, 1952

Sir:

I have the honour to inform you that the Right Honourable Thibaudeau Rinfret, Chief Justice of Canada, acting as Deputy of His Excellency the Governor General, will proceed to the Senate chamber at 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, the 20th November, for the purpose of proroguing the sixth session of the twenty-first parliament.

I have the honour to be,
sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. F. Delaute,
Secretary to the Governor General
(Administrative)

VACANCIES

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that during the adjournment I have received communications from several members notifying me that the following vacancies have occurred in the representation, viz.:

Of Hon. R. W. Mayhew, member for the electoral district of Victoria (B.C.), consequent upon his acceptance of an office of emolument under the crown.

Of Gerard Cournoyer, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Richelieu-Vercheres, by resignation.

Accordingly I issued my warrants to the chief electoral officer to make out new writs of election for the said electoral districts.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the house that during the adjournment the Clerk of the House has received from the chief electoral officer certificates of the election and return of the following members, viz.:

Of Romuald Bourque, Esquire, for the electoral district of Outremont-St. Jean.

Of Lucien Cardin, Esquire, for the electoral district of Richelieu-Vercheres.

THE LATE JOSEPH HENRY HARRIS

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, since the last meeting of this house one of its most esteemed members has passed away. I refer of course to the former member for Toronto Danforth.

It was with deep regret, shared by all of us regardless of party affiliations, that we learned of the death on October 25 of Mr. Joseph H. Harris, familiarly known to his many friends on parliament hill, in Toronto and, indeed, in many other parts of Canada, as Joe Harris. He had been unable, owing to ill health, to attend the last session of parliament, but most of us had hoped with some justification, in view of the reports we received from time to time from members of his family that he was recovering, that he would be able to be with us during the forthcoming session. We will miss him as will his political associates in particular and those he represented so long and so well in parliament.

Born of one of the original families of the Danforth district in 1888, he received his education at Pickering College and the University of Toronto from which he graduated in 1911 with the degree of bachelor of applied science. Ten years later, at the early age of 33, he was elected to parliament in the general election of 1921. Ever since, for thirty-one years, he has successively represented the Toronto east end ridings of East York, Scarborough and Danforth in this house.

In point of continuous service he was a veteran of parliament, being junior only to the Hon. C. G. Power who was first elected in 1917. To have remained so long in the House of Commons necessarily reflects the kind of service Mr. Harris always sought to give and succeeded in giving to all his constituents and to the country.

He of course naturally pressed for federal projects that would bring benefit to those he represented, but his work as a member of the war expenditures committee, for example, during the last war, and his active interest in the welfare of our veterans, are but examples of his concern for Canada as a whole. To the debates of the house and its committees he brought the vigorous mind and expression of a successful businessman and an active supporter of good causes.