

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that he had received a communication from the Secretary to the Governor General, as follows:—

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SECRETARY, CANADA

OTTAWA, 21st September, 1951.

Sir,—I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the Governor General will arrive at the main entrance of the Houses of Parliament at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9th, 1951, and when it has been signified that all is in readiness, will proceed to the Senate Chamber to open the Fifth Session of the Twenty-first Parliament of Canada.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

H. F. G. LETSON,  
*Secretary to the Governor General.*

The Honourable  
The Speaker of the Senate,  
Ottawa.

Ordered, That the same do lie on the Table.

The Senate adjourned during pleasure.

After a while, His Excellency the Governor General having come, and being seated on the Throne,—

The Honourable the Speaker commanded the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod to proceed to the House of Commons and acquaint that House that,—

It is His Excellency the Governor General's pleasure that they attend him immediately in the Senate Chamber.

The House of Commons being come,

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open the Session by a Gracious Speech to both Houses, as follows:—

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

As you resume your labours, our country is being honoured by the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.

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The public satisfaction at the speedy recovery of His Majesty the King which made possible the resumption of plans for the visit is heartening evidence of the deep attachment of the Canadian people to the Crown.

The primary reason for summoning you for a second session in the present year is to invite your consideration of a measure to provide increased security for our older citizens through payment of pensions, without a means test and as a matter of right, to all Canadians with appropriate residence qualifications who are over the age of seventy years, and to establish a fund made up of special contributions levied for that purpose.

Registration of all persons seventy years of age and over has been successfully undertaken, and administrative preparations have already been well advanced to ensure, once the necessary legislation has been approved, the prompt payment from January 1952 of pensions to all eligible persons. In the first year of its operation, it is estimated that more than seven hundred thousand persons will be eligible.

This measure for the well-being of our senior citizens is designed to complete the programme of old age security announced by my government at the session earlier in this present year when legislation was enacted to provide for a federal contribution to assistance to persons between the ages of sixty-five and seventy.

Our national effort to provide for the security of our country in co-operation with other peace-loving nations continues to receive the constant attention of my Ministers.

Full support is being given to the Canadian forces in Korea where they are giving distinguished service in the United Nations' action to defeat aggression.

The North Atlantic nations are steadily increasing their combined strength in their determined effort to maintain peace by providing an effective deterrent to aggression in Europe. To this end an integrated force is being established under the command of General Eisenhower.

The plans for the despatch to Europe of elements of the army and air force destined to form a part of the integrated force were announced at the last session. The measures which the government proposes at this time in furtherance of these plans will be communicated to you without delay.

You will be asked to approve the ratification of a protocol to enable an invitation to be extended to Greece and Turkey to join the North Atlantic Alliance; and to consider a Bill relating to the Canadian Forces.

The concern of our people over the rising cost of living resulting from international and domestic inflationary pressures is fully shared by the government. Every measure will be taken which my Ministers believe will be effective in counteracting inflation without impairing our free institutions. The anti-inflationary measures already in force have checked the upward trend of prices of goods and services affected by their operation.

The government has received an interim report from the Committee studying the Combines legislation recommending that suppliers of goods should be prohibited from requiring or inducing distributors to resell such goods at fixed or minimum resale prices. You will be asked to consider legislation arising out of the Committee's interim report.

My Prime Minister has conferred recently with the President of the United States on the vital importance to the security and economies of both countries of proceeding as rapidly as possible with both the seaway and the power phases of the St. Lawrence project.

The President stated he would support Canadian action to construct the seaway as second best if an early commencement of the joint development does not prove possible. Terms have been arranged with the government of Ontario for the participation of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission with the appropriate Federal or State authority in the United States for the power development in the international section of the St. Lawrence, and with respect to the division of costs between power and navigation. You will be asked to enact legislation to provide for an appropriate agency of the federal government to deal with the construction of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The proposed agency would be empowered to proceed either with the Canadian share of an international undertaking or a solely Canadian development, as soon as satisfactory international arrangements can be made for the power phases of the project in both countries.

The Commission to consider whether the economic and social returns to the Canadian people on the investment in the proposed South Saskatchewan River project would be commensurate with the cost has been appointed and is pursuing its studies.

The government has decided to proceed with the construction of a causeway to bridge the Straits of Canso for rail and road traffic as recommended by the Board of Engineers, and the government of Nova Scotia has agreed to contribute a portion of the cost.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Transportation, amendments will be introduced to the Railway Act, the Canadian National-Canadian Pacific Act and the Maritime Freight Rates Act. The amendment to the Railway Act will include the provision recommended by the Commission for maintenance by the nation of the link in Northern Ontario between Eastern and Western Canada.

My Ministers will submit a Bill embodying recommendations for legislation on radio broadcasting and television of the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, including provision for the financing of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

You will be asked to consider certain proposed amendments to the Dominion Elections Act.

Bills will be introduced regarding the Agricultural Products Board, Canada Land Surveys, and the United Kingdom Financial Agreement.

Amendments will be submitted to the legislation respecting the National Gallery of Canada, the Government Annuities Act, the Public Works Act, the Civil Service Act and the Public Printing and Stationery Act.

*Members of the House of Commons:*

The government will recommend the immediate establishment of the Committee on Public Accounts and will ask you to refer for its consideration the Bill respecting Financial Administration which will be introduced without delay.

*Honourable Members of the Senate:*

*Members of the House of Commons:*

May Divine Providence bless your deliberations.

The Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

PRAYERS.

The Honourable Senator Hugessen, presented to the Senate a Bill intituled: "An Act relating to Railways."

The said Bill was read the first time.

The Honourable the Speaker informed the Senate that a copy of the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General had been left in his hands.

The same was read by The Honourable the Speaker.

On motion it was—

Ordered, That the Speech of His Excellency the Governor General be taken into consideration on Tuesday, next.

With leave of the Senate, and—

On motion of the Honourable Senator Hugessen, it was—

Ordered, That all the Senators present during the Session be appointed a Committee to consider the Orders and Customs of the Senate and Privileges of Parliament, and that the said Committee have leave to meet in the Senate Chamber when and as often as they please.

With leave of the Senate, and—

On motion of the Honourable Senator Hugessen, it was—

Ordered, That pursuant to Rule 77, the following Senators, to wit: the Honourable Senators Aseltine, Beaubien, Gouin, Haig, McDonald, Robertson, Taylor and the mover be appointed a Committee of Selection to nominate Senators to serve on the several Standing Committees during the present session; and to report with all convenient speed the names of the Senators so nominated.