

[English]

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF C. B. KOESTER, ESQUIRE,
AS CLERK

Mr. Speaker: I have the honour to inform the House that the governor in council has appointed Charles Beverley Koester, Esquire, C.D., M.A., Ph.D., as Clerk of the House of Commons in the place of Alistair Fraser, B.A., LL.B., resigned.

May I borrow just a moment from the House at this juncture to say two things. First, it is self-evident that no Speaker can survive without the constant counsel, advice, support and assistance of the Clerk of the House of Commons. In all of the Speaker's responsibilities, some of which are very visible in the chamber and many of which are lesser known in administrative capacities, in the direction of the House of Commons personnel and organizations and things of that sort, in every respect a Speaker is lost without the constant support and advice on procedural matters, administrative matters and in every way of the Clerk of the House of Commons.

Having worked with Dr. Koester, I have every confidence that we are in the best possible hands at this moment, and I look forward to his very wise and already demonstrated able counsel in assisting me through the years to come.

May I also say that since I have been the Speaker of this House, and for some time prior to that, I and predecessors of mine were the beneficiaries of the excellent counsel and advice of Mr. Alistair Fraser, who distinguished himself as Clerk of the House of Commons and, finally, just as he was leaving office, I think put a fitting stroke into the history book of our procedures and practices by being a co-editor and co-author of the most recent revision of Beauchesne's parliamentary procedures. It is an excellent work and stands as a tribute to him.

I felt at this moment as we change Clerks of the House of Commons that the House would want to join me in paying tribute to Alistair Fraser for all of his great years of excellent and faithful service to the House of Commons, and at the same time wish Dr. Koester, the new Clerk of the House of Commons, the same kind of success with which Mr. Fraser distinguished himself.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

APPOINTMENT OF ALISTAIR FRASER, ESQUIRE, AS HONORARY
OFFICER

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I naturally want to join in your remarks of tribute not only to Alistair Fraser but also to Dr. Koester, with whom we look forward—and I know I speak on behalf of all members of the House in saying this—to working very closely in ensuring that this House of Commons continues to be an effective and respected institution in the country.

Alistair Fraser, Esq.

I think it is appropriate that we take a moment now to say a few words in tribute to the outstanding service over 12 years of Alistair Fraser as Clerk of the House of Commons. I pronounce that word differently than others do for reasons Your Honour will understand.

Each one of us, whenever we came here, who had the opportunity, to serve with Mr. Fraser have cause to regret his resignation, because he has been not only attentive to his duties but tireless in the discharge of those duties toward all members of the House of Commons.

[Translation]

He is responsible to a large extent for the structure of the House of Commons as we know it today. Moreover, he looked after programs for parliamentary interns, he extended more facilities to members, he arranged for the broadcasting of our debates, he supervised major changes to the Standing Orders and participated in the drafting of the new edition of Beauchesne's Parliamentary Rules and Forms, which will be for us a valuable guide for many years.

[English]

I want also to express my personal recognition of his courtesy and his unflinching attention to all matters on which I have consulted him over my years in the House.

It is my privilege to propose the following resolution, which I am sure will meet with the unanimous approval of all members of this House. I move, seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Trudeau):

That this House, desiring to record its deep appreciation of the distinguished and faithful service of Alistair Fraser, Esquire, B.A., LL.B., as Clerk of the House of Commons, designate him an honorary officer of the House of Commons with an entrée to the chamber and a seat at the Table on ceremonial occasions.

● (1620)

Mr. Speaker: The House has heard the motion moved by the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Clark), seconded by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Trudeau). Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, in seconding the motion, we in this party would also like to offer our best wishes and co-operation to the recently appointed Clerk of the House of Commons, Dr. Koester. He is, of course, no stranger to those who have already served in this chamber. We have great respect for his background as a scholar and a former clerk of the Saskatchewan legislature. We welcome him to this important position and I am sure all members of the House join me in looking forward to his friendship and guidance for many sessions to come.

However, today, much as the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark) has done, I want on behalf of our party to say farewell to another good friend of this House, Mr. Alistair Fraser, who retired as Clerk of the House a few weeks ago.

[Translation]

When paying homage to someone, one often speaks of "selfless devotion". That expression has been used so often as