

and I am sure he will make a good Leader of the Government. I want to thank him for the co-operation he gave me during the time that I was honoured to hold the position he now occupies. No one could have co-operated with any leader more wholeheartedly than did Senator Haig. I would like to wish him a long term in the office he now holds, but if I did so I would be wishing for myself a long term as Leader of the Opposition, and I cannot say that I desire that role for myself. So I will content myself by saying that I hope his term will be a happy and profitable one for himself, for this house, and for the country.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** With a new Parliament a change has also been brought about in the Speakership of this house.

*(Translation):*

Honourable senators, I would like to welcome our new Speaker, the Honourable Mark Robert Drouin. You have become, sir, the successor of a long list of distinguished Canadians who have occupied the Chair, three of whom are with us today: Hon. Arthur Hardy, who was Speaker in 1930; Hon. Thomas Vien, who was Speaker from 1943 to 1945, and your immediate predecessor, Hon. Wishart McLea Robertson, who was Speaker from 1953 to 1957. I congratulate you upon your appointment. As were those who came before you, you are particularly well qualified to fulfil the difficult duties of Speaker of the Senate, and I can assure you that you may count upon the full co-operation of all the members of this house. And when your term of office expires I hope Providence will keep you in good health so that you may remain among us, as a senator, for many years to come.

*(Text):*

I wish also at this time to express my personal warm welcome to the new senators, most of whom, though not all, were unknown to me. I know I speak on behalf of all honourable senators when I say to them: "We are glad to have you in our midst. We look forward to years of association with you. We are sure you will enjoy the years during which you serve in this chamber, and we know that you will be of service to Parliament and to your country. I am pleased to welcome you here."

Also I would express my congratulations and appreciation to the mover and seconder of the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. The honourable senator from Hastings-Frontenac (Hon. Mr. White), who moved the Address, is one of my very good friends. We sat together in the House of Commons from 1940 to 1953. I got there a little earlier than the honourable senator

did, but he stayed there longer; now he has caught up with me again. I have heard his utterances on many occasions in the House of Commons. I know of his great interest in the welfare and wellbeing of the veterans of our country. His speech last evening made it evident that his interest in their welfare has not slackened over the years. As an old parliamentarian he followed the Speech from the Throne with great care, and in his first address he dealt with it thoroughly and proved to us that he has a good knowledge of the legislation which will come before us. I congratulate him heartily on his speech.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

*(Translation):*

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** I wish to congratulate the honourable senator from Shawinigan (Hon. Mr. Méthot) upon his maiden speech before this honourable house. He was already known to several of the senators and recognized as a distinguished lawyer. He spoke to us of the great St. Maurice river which flows through an important area of the province of Quebec. He will no doubt address us again over the many years we hope he will spend among us.

*(Text):*

Honourable senators, an event took place in this house last night which went by unnoticed by many honourable members. A reporter sat at the desk beside our regular and very capable French shorthand reporter, Mr. Victor Lemire, and if honourable senators were looking at that desk during the speech of the honourable senator from Shawinigan (Hon. Mr. Méthot) they would have observed that the speech was being taken down on a stenotype machine. The machine could not be heard, it was completely silent. The use of this machine was something new in the Parliament of Canada, it having never before been used in either house at Ottawa. I think this incident provides a further answer to anyone who says that the Senate is old-fashioned.

Honourable senators, I am gradually approaching a very important portion of my address, and I assure you my remarks will not be long. I do not think I should let the reference which I made to the change which took place on June 10 go by without further word. There is a new government and I hope it will be a good one. I am satisfied that the former Government was a very good one. It had been in power for twenty-two years, and I can say they were twenty-two glorious years.

**Some Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Macdonald:** They will be described as golden years in the history of our country.