

No. 57

JOURNALS
OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
OF CANADA

OTTAWA, MONDAY, 30th SEPTEMBER, 1963.

2.30 o'clock p.m.

PRAYERS.

STATEMENT BY MR. SPEAKER

Before calling the Orders of the Day, I would crave the indulgence of honourable Members in order to permit me to make a statement on a situation which has developed since the adjournment of the House on August the 2nd.

The problem with which the House is faced is a new one. May I be allowed to refer, in a chronological order, to certain correspondence by which I was apprised of the facts.

On the 9th of September 1963, the honourable Member for Lapointe wrote me a letter to the effect that his party had chosen a new leader and claiming certain rights and privileges.

On the 13th of September, the honourable Member for Red Deer wrote me a letter to the effect "that the separation of Mr. Real Caouette and his followers from the party poses several problems."

On the 16th of September, the honourable Member for Villeneuve wrote me a letter reading in part as follows:

«Depuis le 1^{er} septembre, notre mouvement est devenu un groupe national sous le vocable Ralliement des Créditistes.»

On the 18th of September, the honourable Member for Winnipeg North Centre wrote me a letter reading in part "in view of recent developments it seems quite clear that the New Democratic party, with its seventeen Members, is now the third largest group in the House of Commons". Later on in the letter, he adds "since we are now the largest of the smaller parties we will expect to be seated immediately next to the Official Opposition".