

Strengthened, therefore, by your enlightened advice and counsel; guided by the wise decisions of my eminent predecessors I dare hope to preside over the proceedings of this august assembly with impartiality and justice, to uphold British parliamentary traditions, to be, in truth, your worthy spokesman.

Long years of service in parliament have enriched my life with many precious and lasting friendships. I fully trust the future will bring the same pleasant experience with those welcome ones who, to-day for the first time, have crossed the threshold of this chamber.

I thank you most sincerely for this abiding testimonial of esteem and confidence, for the great honour you do me. It will be my unremitting endeavour to prove myself deserving of your trust. Ever mindful of your gracious cooperation, I shall strive always to discharge the duties of the speakership in a manner properly befitting the revered traditions of this exalted office.

Mesdames et messieurs de la Chambre des communes, c'est avec une profonde reconnaissance que j'accepte le haut poste que vous daignez me confier, mais ce n'est pas sans crainte. Tant d'hommes distingués ont occupé ce fauteuil avant moi que j'hésiterais à leur succéder si, conscient de mon peu de mérite, je ne savais que je puis compter sur votre générosité, sur votre droiture, sur votre sympathie. Eclairé de vos avis, aidé de vos sages conseils et guidé par les décisions de mes prédécesseurs, j'ose espérer que je réussirai à diriger avec impartialité et justice les délibérations de cette Chambre, à maintenir les traditions parlementaires britanniques, à vous représenter dignement.

Les nombreuses années que j'ai passées dans cette enceinte m'ont valu de précieuses, de solides amitiés et j'entends bien former avec les nouveaux élus des relations tout aussi amicales.

Je vous remercie bien sincèrement de l'honneur que vous me faites et de la grande marque d'estime et de confiance dont vous me donnez le témoignage. Je tâcherai de m'en rendre digne en remplissant, selon la tradition et avec le haut sentiment de ma responsabilité, les devoirs de ma charge.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I move, seconded by Mr. Lapointe (Quebec-East), that the house do now adjourn.

Some hon. MEMBERS: To what time?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: The hour is fixed by the rules. It is three o'clock.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 1.50 p.m.

The house met at three o'clock.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

Mr. Speaker read a communication from the Governor General's secretary announcing that His Excellency would proceed to the Senate chamber at 3 p.m. on this day for the purpose of formally opening the session of the Dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Major A. R. Thompson, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the Honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate chamber. Then the Hon. Pierre-François Casgrain, Speaker-elect, said:

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me. If in the performance of those duties I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons whose servant I am.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate, addressing the Honourable the Speaker of the House, then said:

Mr. Speaker, I am commanded by His Excellency the Governor General to assure you that your words and actions will constantly receive from him the most favourable construction.

Then His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to open parliament by a speech from the throne.

And the house being returned to the Commons chamber:

Mr. SPEAKER: I have the honour to state that the house having attended on His Excellency the Governor General in the Senate chamber, I informed His Excellency that the choice of Speaker, had fallen upon me, and, in your names, and on your behalf, I made the usual claim for your privileges, which His Excellency was pleased to confirm to you.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. 1, respecting the administration of oaths of office.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.