

*Election of Speaker*

My special thanks also—for we must always be mindful of the minorities in this House—to the hon. member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) for the words he used in supporting my appointment.

● (12:00 noon)

[English]

May I at this time pay a well-earned tribute to one who, during the last parliament, served this house with great dignity and efficiency; to one who has earned our respect, our gratitude and our affection, Hon. Alan Macnaughton. Those who had the privilege to sit in the last parliament will know that Mr. Speaker Macnaughton was devoted, courteous and helpful to all members at all times. It will be my aim to emulate the high standard of integrity, impartiality and dedicated service which he and his predecessors, and in particular our distinguished colleague the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert), established during their tenure of office.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** On your behalf, hon. members, I wish to pay tribute also to the senior officers of the House of Commons. It is reassuring to the Chair and, I am sure to all hon. members, that we may rely on the continued efficient assistance and, in many instances, the wise counsel of these most competent advisers.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Speaker:** Again I humbly thank the house for the great trust it has placed in my hands and I can tell you, hon. members, it is my fervent hope that my limitations—and they are obvious limitations—for this high office will be alleviated in some measure by the diligence with which I propose to serve the House of Commons.

**Mr. Pearson:** Mr. Speaker, may I be permitted to congratulate you on your selection as the choice of all hon. members of the house to be our Speaker, and may I join you—and on this occasion perhaps I can speak on behalf of all hon. members—in the well deserved tribute you have paid to your predecessor.

When you consented to take the Chair, Mr. Speaker, you showed your reluctance to accept such difficult responsibilities, but perhaps not as much reluctance or as much opposition to your assignment as your predecessor might have shown if he had been

[Mr. Speaker.]

asked to take on the work for another parliament. But we know, Mr. Speaker, that you will discharge those heavy and historic responsibilities with scrupulous fairness and impartiality.

SITTING SUSPENDED

**Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that this sitting of the house be suspended until three o'clock this afternoon.

**Mr. Speaker:** The house has heard the suggestion of the Prime Minister that this sitting be suspended until three o'clock this day. Is it the pleasure of the house to adopt this suggestion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Speaker:** I declare the sitting suspended until the ringing of the bells at 3 p.m. this day.

At 12.05 p.m. the sitting was suspended until 3 p.m. this day.

● (3:00 p.m.)

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at three o'clock.

● (3:10 p.m.)

### OPENING OF THE SESSION

**Mr. Speaker** read a communication from the Governor General's secretary announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three o'clock on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

● (3:20 p.m.)

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

Mr. Speaker, it is the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor General that this honourable house attend him immediately in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker with the house went up to the Senate chamber. Then Hon. Lucien Lamoureux, Speaker of the House of Commons, said:

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Commons have elected me 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, and who, through me, the better to enable them to discharge their duty to their Queen and country, humbly claim all their undoubted rights and privileges, especially that