

*Parliament Hill*

intention either, I am sure, of showing disrespect for the late Mr. St. Laurent who was universally cherished.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Pearson had enjoyed a long and prestigious career as a diplomat, first as Under Secretary, and then as Secretary of State for External Affairs. He was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize because of his immense contribution to world peace and prosperity after World War II. In view of Mr. Pearson's career and the consequent tribute paid to Mr. St. Laurent, I urge Hon. Members opposite to reconsider the idea of dealing rapidly with the motion to put the statue right on Parliament Hill, exclusively. All Members will agree that we should not reject offhand the possibility of having a statue at some other location that would be just as suitable if not more, in front of the Lester B. Pearson Building for instance, the headquarters of the Department of External Affairs which is so capably headed by the Right Hon. Joe Clark.

Mr. Speaker, this is only one example of the aspects we should be looking at. It would seem normal to me that Hon. Members would want to look at all the facts before taking such an important decision. However, were the decision to be made immediately, it would be wise if it did not prevent further consideration of this issue as the Hon. Lester B. Pearson's statue project.

It would be useful, without entailing endless delays, to refer all those questions to a committee of the House. Although it has no direct mandate, the Committee on Internal Economy for instance could in my view be required to look into this or again a special committee might be better suited.

Mr. Speaker, that motion would be greatly improved and much more relevant if the words:

"or in some other suitable location"

—were added to the motion for the obvious reasons I just mentioned. The decision remains with the sponsor, who is here in this House. If the only solution is to pass the motion as it now stands, I will support it and accept this uncompromising situation as I believe will all my colleagues on this side. I would leave the decision to the good judgment of the Hon. Member and his colleagues, who, no doubt, will want to support the motion which is quite sensible, relevant and in keeping with the high ideals of this Government's policy which are now expressed by unreservedly approving the motion to commission a statue of the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson.

• (1700)

[English]

**Mrs. Pauline Browes (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in this debate on the motion of the Hon. Member for Glengarry—Prescott—Russell (Mr. Boudria). I am pleased to have this opportunity because this motion follows on the motion I introduced just two years ago to erect a statue in honour of John Diefenbaker on Parliament Hill. John Diefenbaker and Lester Pearson were great political rivals. Their debates here

on the floor of the House of Commons and across Canada on the campaign trail form a lively and colourful part of our nation's history. Their rivalry touched almost every aspect of our politics, Parliament and society. I am told that it even extended to who caught the largest fish in Lake Harrington. As all members know, of course, Lester Pearson was never able to match the four and a half pound trout which Mr. Diefenbaker caught. However, I must say there is a silly but persistent rumour that Mr. Diefenbaker never actually pulled the fish into the boat.

Lester Pearson's outlook on life was profoundly shaped by his upbringing in a religious family, in a manse, his service during the war and his experience as a diplomat. He held a firm belief that Canada could become a great nation, and his efforts as Prime Minister are a great testament to that conviction. His outstanding international experience is widely known. He is perhaps one of the very few Canadians to ever participate in both the League of Nations and the United Nations. He was Canada's Ambassador to the U.S., President of the UN General Assembly, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and Canadian Minister of External Affairs. He received over 24 honorary degrees and was known world-wide as a conciliator, and a passionate defender of the peace.

Although he never won a majority Government in the House of Commons, Lester Pearson's record as Prime Minister is remarkable. He established the Canada Pension Plan, the Canada Assistance Program, medicare, a new labour code, a new Bank Act, the Order of Canada, and of course a new flag. His years in office were a time of great change and progress for all Canadians.

Two years ago this month I introduced a private motion to have a statue of the Right Hon. John George Diefenbaker commissioned and placed on Parliament Hill. Subsequently the site for that statue was chosen and the world-renowned artist, Leo Mol, was selected to do the work. Last September 18, some 18 months after the motion was first introduced, the statue was unveiled on a brilliant day here on Parliament Hill. Thousands of Canadians from all parts of the country attended that ceremony.

• (1710)

The committee which established the Diefenbaker statue demonstrated that a coherent and consistent process for the provision of such statues can work and is needed. With the outstanding contributions of the Hon. Member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ravis), Senator David Walker from Toronto, who was the Minister of Public Works in the Diefenbaker Government, and representatives from the Ministry of Public Works, the Department of the Secretary of State, the NCC, and the Speaker's office, we initiated a process which could end the ad hoc approach which has been used for these memorials.

That was precisely the purpose of my motion. It was not my intention to encourage further Private Members' Motions which would simply tread on ground we have already covered. Rather, I introduced the motion to alert Parliament to the