

Election of Speaker

our support. I also noted that the right hon. Prime Minister, as an expert lawyer, emphasized the fact that the Speaker must be able not only to interpret the rules but also to distinguish them when the situation requires. In that agile effort of applying the rules with impartiality and good nature to the particular situation, Mr. Lamoureux has already shown himself to be a master.

It is with very deep pleasure that we of the New Democratic party support his candidature for this office and offer him the co-operation which I know he will receive from all hon. members of the house.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Témiscamingue): Mr. Fraser, when the appointment of a permanent Speaker was discussed some months ago, the Hon. Lucien Lamoureux was suggested for this position, and we were happy to think that he might become permanent Speaker of this house. The hon. Lucien Lamoureux possesses obvious qualities thanks to which he has shown himself to be, during the 27th Parliament, one of the great Speakers in the history of the House of Commons. He acted with impartiality, and even when Parliament was led by a minority government, he managed to do a difficult job very well, in spite of a situation which was often rather awkward.

This time, the Speaker will preside over the deliberations of a parliament led by a majority government, and this for the first time in six years. At this time, I feel that the hon. Mr. Lamoureux has, once again, all the unquestionable qualities required to know that we must protect the minorities. Now, we will be a minority. I am of the opinion, in short, I am already convinced that the hon. Mr. Lamoureux will treat the members of parliament, the appointees of the people as they should be treated in a democratic parliament. We have been appointed by the Canadian people: the hon. Mr. Lamoureux knows that.

We, of the Ralliement Créditiste, are indeed very happy to support fully the motion of the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau), seconded by the Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), for the appointment of the hon. Mr. Lamoureux as Speaker of the house during the session opening today.

Therefore, we wish every success to the hon. Mr. Lamoureux, and we feel sure that the members will be treated equitably, in all

[Mr. Lewis.]

fairness, for the common good of the Canadian people.

[*English*]

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente*, and Lucien Lamoureux, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Stormont-Dundas, duly elected to the Chair of the house.

Mr. Lamoureux was conducted from his seat in the house to the Speaker's chair by Right Hon. P.-E. Trudeau and Hon. Robert L. Stanfield.

• (11:10 a.m.)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. members, I thank you for the honour you have just bestowed upon me, an honour which is shared by my family and by the constituents I represent in this parliament.

For the second time you have called me to the high office of Speaker of the House of Commons. I am deeply grateful to you for this renewed expression of confidence. When I stood before you as Speaker-elect to the twenty seventh parliament I undertook to serve this house and to serve parliament with fairness, objectivity and impartiality. This is my renewed pledge to the house on this solemn occasion.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Speaker: I will again consider it an honour and my duty to uphold the rights and privileges of individual members of the house and to maintain our parliamentary customs and traditions, and I am sure all hon. members will want to co-operate with their presiding officer to ensure that in its deliberations our assembly will always observe the highest standards of decorum, propriety and dignity.

[*Translation*]

I therefore thank you, Mr. Prime Minister, and I thank you, hon. members, for the great honour that you have just bestowed upon me.

I am deeply touched, of course, by the much too flattering remarks of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and I am also grateful to the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) who, in much too gracious terms, was kind enough to support the Prime Minister's motion. The remarks made by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition as