

chairman of the Economic Council of Canada, to succeed Dr. Arthur Smith whose resignation was announced recently. Effective January 1, 1972, the position will be assumed by Dr. André Raynauld of Montreal.

Dr. Raynauld is a distinguished economist, formerly head of the Department of Economics in the University of Montreal, who has served in many capacities in Canada and abroad.

• (3:30 p.m.)

He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Economic Council from 1966 to 1969 and has served on many other boards and commissions.

While Dr. Raynauld will not formally assume his new position until the New Year, it is expected that he will begin working with the Council on a part-time basis immediately following the retirement of Dr. Smith on October 15.

I am tabling Mr. Raynauld's biographical outline and the text of a letter dated today, which I have written to him.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that we welcome the appointment of Dr. André Raynauld as chairman of the Economic Council of Canada. His great proficiency as an economist, his brilliant career, his wide experience and his exceptional qualities made him the logical candidate for the position he is being assigned to. I would like to extend my personal congratulations to him and wish him the very best of luck.

[English]

I should like to make a particular point of emphasizing the distinguished service that Dr. Arthur Smith has rendered this country as chairman of the Economic Council of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Stanfield: As successor to Dr. Arthur Smith, Dr. Raynauld will not find his task an easy one. Furthermore, our country is certainly going through a period of great economic difficulty. Great efforts will be demanded in terms of analysis and great boldness in terms of approach. But the qualifications of the new chairman are reassuring to us. We know he understands well the economic problems of the country as a whole, as well as those concerning his native province of Quebec in particular. I hope the independence of the Economic Council will be preserved and that the new chairman will not be subjected to sniping from within the government.

[Translation]

We are convinced that under Dr. Raynauld's enlightened chairmanship, the Economic Council of Canada will continue to be an essential and effective organization.

[English]

Mr. David Lewis (York South): My remarks will be very few. I, too, want to congratulate the Prime Minister for having chosen a man si intelligent, si compétent, si brillant que le Dr. Raynauld to fill the post of chairman of the Economic Council of Canada.

Economic Council of Canada Appointment

All I want to say is that it seems to me the government of Canada has ignored the advice which the Economic Council has given for many years with respect to a full employment policy for this country and with respect to a war against poverty in particular, so it does not appear to me that we ought to be particularly concerned about who the Prime Minister appoints to be chairman of a body which the government then proceeds to ignore. It is hoped that Dr. Raynauld will continue to make recommendations, carry out studies and give advice as the Economic Council has done in the past. From his credentials as an economist, I have no doubt that he may give very good advice but there is no suggestion in the Prime Minister's statement or anywhere else that the advice of the Council will be followed by the government. Dr. Raynauld will, therefore, suffer the frustrations which I know Dr. Arthur Smith has suffered.

I conclude by reminding Members of the House that no less an authority than the deputy finance minister suggested to a Senate Committee that the Economic Council was not sufficiently competent and that it had outlived its usefulness. I do not know for whom Mr. Riesman was speaking if not for his minister. I merely express my congratulations to the Prime Minister on the appointment and my condolences to Dr. Raynauld for the position in which he will find himself.

[Translation]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I too would like to congratulate the right hon. Prime Minister on the appointment he has just announced to the House. I am convinced the new chairman of the Economic Council of Canada will render tremendous services to our country and that the Canadian Parliament will benefit, through his administration, from the information required to manage the country and guide it along the path to success which we should normally follow by making it possible for the people to benefit from the great wealth with which Providence has endowed our country.

I should also like to thank the former chairman, Dr. Smith, for his courage in preparing most interesting reports for the government. I will mention among others the fifth report of the Economic Council which was a real eye-opener. We all agreed that it was the report of a courageous man which objectively described the economic conditions in Canada and included at the same time some very realistic suggestions.

I therefore hope that Mr. Raynauld may efficiently fill his term of office; he is an experienced economist and well qualified for the job. I am convinced that he will fully discharge the duties which have been entrusted to him and that under his leadership, we will have the benefit of reports accurately disclosing the result of investigations which the Council will be called upon to make, in order that public funds be used for the good of all Canadians.