

Election of Speaker

[*Translation*]

Like the Government Members, we in the Opposition also have our rights and duties. We shall observe the traditional role of the Official Opposition, and we are counting on the assistance and co-operation of the Speaker to help preserve this tradition.

I am sure that Mr. Bosley is fully aware of the tremendous responsibility he has taken on, and I can give him the assurance that the Liberal Members of this House join me in supporting his nomination.

We are looking forward to working together in the spirit of co-operation and conciliation, that is so essential to the functioning of this House.

[*English*]

On a more personal note, to echo the words of the Prime Minister, I am sure that all Members join with me in offering Mr. Bosley our congratulations on his recent marriage.

[*Translation*]

Allow me, Mr. Bosley, to express the hope that the harmony you will bring to the proceedings of this House will reflect the personal harmony you will enjoy in your married life.

[*English*]

I am pleased, therefore, to second the nomination by the Right Hon. Prime Minister of the Member for Don Valley West, Mr. John Bosley, as Speaker of this Thirty-third Parliament of Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa): I would like to preface my comments on this motion by noting the new degree of civility that has entered the House with the Leaders of all Parties being given the appropriate due respect, not only by Members in Opposition Parties but by Members of their own caucus, and I am sure I speak for all three Leaders when I say we hope this tradition continues!

I want, Dr. Koester, to say in speaking to this motion that my colleagues and myself most heartily endorse the personal selection of the Member for Don Valley West. He demonstrated during his experience in this House all of those qualities that I am sure will make him a truly admirable Speaker of the House, a bilingual person of real intelligence and capacity to work. I am sure we will see in the days ahead a man with a fine sense of justice.

It is appropriate to add my compliments and congratulations on his recent marriage. I am sure that new experience will constitute an element in his life that will enrich his judgments in this Chamber as well. As the whole House knows, the Speaker has a residence in this place.

[*Translation*]

As I explained before, we would like to be able to choose the Speaker of the House. I would also be in favour of a different procedure. In the past, a Committee of this House did suggest another method for selecting the Speaker. The Leader of the Opposition has indicated that his Party would support a change of this kind, and I just want to say that in future, we in

our Party would like to be able to choose the Speaker and to do so according to a similar procedure.

[*English*]

For the moment, as I said, we have selected a man who will have the confidence of my colleagues, a man who I dare say could have been selected if we had used that other process.

I compliment the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) on his recommendation and the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) for seconding the motion. I conclude by simply saying that it is a traditional route of selecting a Speaker, and a Prime Minister who is both a Conservative and who quotes Edmund Burke perhaps could not have been expected at the commencement of this period in office to have selected a different route.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

[*Translation*]

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative and John William Bosley, Esquire, Member for the electoral district of Don Valley West, duly elected to the Chair of the House.

Mr. Bosley was conducted from his seat in the House to the Speaker's Chair by the Right Hon. Brian Mulroney and the Right Hon. John N. Turner.

[*English*]

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I beg to return my humble acknowledgements to the House for the honour which it has been pleased to confer upon me by choosing me to be your Speaker.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Members, I beg to return my humble acknowledgements to the House for the great honour you have been pleased to confer on me by choosing me to be your Speaker.

• (1150)

[*English*]

Traditionally, these are the first words uttered by a newly elected Speaker. For my part, I mean them most sincerely and ask you to accept them as a signal of my deep respect for the traditions of this office and for the customs of this place.

Speakers-elect have also usually tried to express their feelings of inadequacy. Standing here as the bearer of an historic office which has endured unbroken for over 600 years, I understand and share those feelings. Let me thank, if I may, the Right Hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) and the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) for their kind and far too flattering words. Perhaps the Leader of the New Democratic Party will permit me to repeat an old phrase: "Never explain".

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Speaker: No greater honour can be conferred upon one of us than to be chosen by one's peers to be their presiding