

*The Ministry*

**Mr. Hazen Argue (Assiniboia):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the C.C.F. group I know I can say that the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition spoke for us today as I know they spoke for all members in this house when they said it was with profound regret that we learned of the passing of a long-time friend in the person of Mr. Clair Casselman. I want to join with them in the sympathy they have extended to the family, the relatives and friends.

I have known Mr. Casselman for a number of years, indeed since 1945 when I came into the House of Commons. He was the chief whip of the Conservative party from 1935 to 1955 and in that office served his party faithfully and well under a number of leaders. The office of chief whip is an important one in any party. It is one that carries with it a great deal of responsibility and work and requires a person who is devoted to his task. It is not one of those positions that carry with them the same degree of public appearance and perhaps public acclaim as well that is carried with other posts, but we do know it is one of the most important positions in any political party in the House of Commons.

In the years that I sat near Mr. Casselman I saw from personal observation that he was a faithful attendant in this chamber and that he carried out his duties for his party and for the members of this house loyally and efficiently. The C.C.F. group join with all hon. members of this house in expressing to the Prime Minister and the members of the Conservative party our sympathy at their loss and our condolences to the hon. member for Dufferin-Simcoe, Mrs. Casselman, and the three sons and daughter.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister)** moved:

That a special committee be appointed to prepare and report, with all convenient speed, lists of members to compose the standing committees of this house under standing order 65, the said committee to be composed of Messrs. Argue, Balcer, Cardiff, Green and Habel.

Motion agreed to.

**INTERNAL ECONOMY COMMISSION**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister)** presented the following message from His Excellency the Governor General:

The Governor General transmits to the House of Commons a certified copy of an order in council appointing the Hon. Donald Methuen Fleming, Minister of Finance, the Hon. Leon Balcer, Solicitor General, the Hon. George Clyde Nowlan, Minister of National Revenue, and the Hon. Ellen Louks Fairclough, Secretary of State, to act with the Speaker of the House of Commons as commissioners

[Mr. Pearson.]

for the purposes and under the provisions of chapter 143 of the Revised Statutes of Canada, 1952, intituled: An act respecting the House of Commons.

(Translation):

**HOUSE OF COMMONS****APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister)** moved:

That Pierre Sevigny, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Longueuil, be appointed chairman of committees of the whole house.

Motion agreed to.

(Text):

**APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES OF THE WHOLE**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister)** moved:

That Charles Rea, Esquire, member for the electoral district of Spadina, be appointed deputy chairman of committees of the whole house.

Motion agreed to.

**THE MINISTRY****ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGES AND APPOINTMENTS**

**Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, at this time, with your permission and with the leave of the house I wish to make a brief statement concerning changes in the ministry.

I regret to have to announce that hon. Senator John T. Haig has relinquished his appointment as government leader in the Senate and has retired from the cabinet in which he served as a minister without portfolio. I am sure all members of this house will agree that in his many years of service, not only in the other place but also prior thereto in the municipal and legislative arena, he has given devoted service to his country. He has been in the Senate since 1935, and has been Conservative leader in that place since 1945. He was prevailed upon by his family to retire. They believed the time had come for him to give up the heavy and responsible duties in that place. He will continue to hold an honoured place in the upper chamber. His counsel will be available to the people of Canada and to the parliament of this country.

In his place I had the pleasure to announce this morning the appointment of the hon. Senator Walter Aseltine as government leader in the Senate. Senator Aseltine's experience in that place dates from 1933. His service to the parliament of Canada and to the committees of the Senate over those years has