

*Business of the House*

in which he has conducted that high office. May I also say that with all of us there is an admiration for the gracious and extremely fair manner in which he has always dealt with the business of this house.

This parliament of ours, and the house in which we now are members, have a very particular significance at this time. No matter what differences of opinion we may have as to the details of procedure or manner in which the business of the country is to be carried out, the dignity and the responsibility of this house are, I know, a source of pride to every one of us. The Speaker has played an extremely important part in that democratic process for each one of us here. During the past year he has won distinction outside this house, and when he visited London last autumn was most highly and justly praised for the manner in which he represented us at Westminster in the memorable meetings that took place there at that time. May I express the hope to you, Mr. Speaker, that we shall all be able to cooperate with you in carrying forward those great traditions.

During the course of the debates that have taken place I for one have perhaps at times added to your difficulties. May I say without reservation that I hope you will accept my assurance that I regret if anything I may have done may have added to the problems of the very high and responsible office that you hold. May I also say without any reservation whatever that in the rapid and somewhat interrupted exchange of debate within the past few days I used an expression which was both unparliamentary and inappropriate. I mention it only for this reason the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), who is the chosen leader of the government of Canada in these days, will be called upon to accept heavy responsibilities during the months ahead. In the performance of those responsibilities the thoughts of all of us, regardless of party, will be with him, and we shall all be hoping that out of those deliberations which are going to take place there may be the fulfilment of all our hopes.

No matter what may have been said in the heat of debate, I wish to assure the Prime Minister that I have no reservations whatever about my confidence in his personal courage and in his willingness to accept the full responsibility of the high office which he holds. May I say, and in this perhaps I may presume to speak for all members, that during the months ahead, when the Prime Minister will be called upon to speak on behalf of Canada in days of great responsibility, I feel sure that each one of us will be wishing and hoping that he may have health, strength and success in the performance of these great

[Mr. Drew.]

tasks. As we approach the eighty-fifth year of this still young nation, I do not think there is a better birthday wish that any of us could have than that out of the deliberations that are to take place there may be found a basis for continuing peace which is the reason for the heavy contributions that this nation is about to make.

**Mr. Angus MacInnis (Vancouver East):** Mr. Speaker, so far as I can remember, and my memory goes back some times, the adjournment of the house over a long period, as it is being adjourned now, has seldom, I think, been preceded by speeches such as we have heard this evening. Because of the tenor of those speeches, I think it might be well if such a procedure became a custom. The Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent) and the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) referred to the Korean situation and the hope that the negotiations for a cease-fire that have now commenced may terminate in a peaceful settlement of that situation. I think that must be the fervent hope not only of the members of this house and the people of this country but of the people of the entire world. Nothing that could happen in the world today would be so acceptable as the advent of peace.

The Prime Minister wished us a pleasant vacation. Perhaps those are not the words that he used, but as the one who must of necessity take the heaviest share of the load of the work that is done during a session, I hope that he will find time for relaxation so that he will come back in October refreshed and ready for whatever the days ahead may demand.

**Mr. St. Laurent:** I hope that we may all have some little time for relaxation, and I wish to thank the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) and the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. MacInnis) for their very kind words. I wish to say to the leader of the opposition that I am very pleased to accept his words in the spirit in which he spoke them, and I merely add that if we were not occasionally somewhat impetuous we might not have the other qualities that are required to discharge the responsibilities that are ours. I think perhaps the addition of a little spice to the proceedings of the house does no permanent harm to the traditions of parliamentary institutions because after all they are institutions which have to be used and managed by human beings, and it is perhaps not amiss that from time to time we should reveal the natural traits of human beings generally.

**Mr. Speaker:** May I extend to the Prime Minister on behalf of all members the good wishes that have been expressed for him by the leader of the opposition and by the hon. member for Vancouver East. I would also thank him for his gracious remarks concern-