

Election of Speaker

from the practice, I should be commended by my hon. friend for following established and most desirable precedent.

There is one other point to which my hon. friend has drawn attention, namely, the desirability of not permitting the selection of a Speaker to alternate between one whose mother tongue is English and one whose mother tongue is French. May I say to him that the longer he remains a member of this house and the more he desires to command its confidence, the more ready he will be to see that so far as the English speaking and French speaking members are concerned—

Mr. BRACKEN: I want to correct that.

M. MACKENZIE KING: May I say to my hon. friend that, if I misunderstood him, I am prepared to withdraw.

Mr. BRACKEN: I commended that practice.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Did my hon. friend not say that the practice he would like to see followed was to have one Speaker continue?

Mr. BRACKEN: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I understood that such was his first comment.

Mr. BRACKEN: I commended the practice of the house in alternating between an English speaking Speaker and a Speaker using the other language.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: I must say that I thought my hon. friend's first comment was that the British practice of having one Speaker from parliament to parliament was the practice which should be followed.

Mr. BRACKEN: No.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: If I misunderstood my hon. friend, I of course am only too ready and too happy to apologize to him. I do wish to make it abundantly clear that every hon. member in this house has the same privilege as has any member of the government in the making of nominations.

The Clerk of the House declared the motion carried in the affirmative, *nemine contradicente*, and Hon. Gaspard Fauteux, member for the electoral district of St. Mary, duly elected to the chair of the house.

Hon. Mr. Fauteux was conducted from his seat in the house to the Speaker's chair by Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King and Hon. L. S. St. Laurent.

[Mr. Mackenzie King.]

Mr. SPEAKER-ELECT said: Madam and gentlemen of the House of Commons, I must thank you from the bottom of my heart for the testimonial of good will that you have just conferred upon me so generously.

Being conscious of my unfitness for this high office, I find great comfort in your sympathy and generosity. I hope that with your co-operation as well as your enlightened advice and counsel I shall prove myself deserving of your trust in presiding over the proceedings of the House of Commons with justice and in upholding British parliamentary traditions.

Again, madam and fellow members of the House of Commons, thanks from the bottom of my heart.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the sitting be suspended until three o'clock this afternoon.

At 12 noon the sitting was suspended until 3 p.m. this day.

SITTING RESUMED

The house resumed at three o'clock.

Mr. SPEAKER read a communication from the assistant secretary to the Governor General, announcing that His Excellency the Governor General would proceed to the Senate chamber at three p.m. on this day, for the purpose of formally opening the session of the dominion parliament.

A message was delivered by Charles H. Larose, Esquire, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Mr. Speaker, His Excellency the Governor General desires the immediate attendance of this honourable house in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly the house went up to the Senate chamber.

Then the Hon. Gaspard Fauteux, Speaker-elect, said:

May it please Your Excellency,

The House of Commons have elected me as their Speaker, though I am but little able to fulfil the important duties thus assigned to me. If in the performance of those duties I should at any time fall into error, I pray that the fault may be imputed to me, and not to the Commons whose servant I am.

The Honourable the Speaker of the Senate, addressing the Honourable the Speaker of the House, then said: