

Business of the House

tion with the opening of the new chamber of the British House of Commons, the mother of all parliaments.

Mr. George A. Drew (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, on this occasion I wish to join with the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), and with the other members of the house, in extending to you our very best wishes for a pleasant and profitable visit to the mother of parliaments. Might I add that this will be an occasion of special significance for all of us, and for the whole free world at this time, in the fact that this formal opening of the reconstructed House of Commons is in some ways symbolic of the surviving strength of that freedom which we are seeking to preserve. Therefore we wish you well on your trip, and our thoughts will be with the gathering that takes place there as a symbol of the strength of a free parliament.

Mr. M. J. Coldwell (Rosetown-Biggart): Mr. Speaker, I am sure that all of us join in the expression of good will, and hope that you will enjoy your trip across the seas. I have a vivid recollection of a former occasion on which I had the privilege of going with you, sir, to a commonwealth conference in Britain when you acted as chairman of the Canadian delegation. I know that you will bring added dignity to the proceedings, and I can assure you that we shall look forward to hearing your report.

We also concur in the statement of the leader of the opposition (Mr. Drew) that this

occasion has significance not only to the commonwealth but to the whole world. We hope you will enjoy your trip, and that the parliament which you will honour by your presence will long remain the basic institution of our common freedoms.

Mr. Solon E. Low (Peace River): Mr. Speaker, there are only two things left for me to say. One is, "we too", and the other is that we hope, sir, you will not be seasick.

Mr. Speaker: I should like to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. St. Laurent), the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Drew), and the leaders of the other two groups for the very generous words which they have uttered, and for their expression of good will toward me which was accepted generally by all members of this house.

I can assure you I am looking forward to being present at the opening on Thursday, October 26, of the new House of Commons chamber in London. You will recall that the former chamber was destroyed by enemy action during the last war. It will be an historic occasion. When I am there I shall at all times remember that I am representing the members of the Canadian House of Commons, and I shall take great pride in being your representative.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 11.45 o'clock a.m. until Wednesday, February 14, 1951, at three o'clock p.m., unless otherwise ordered pursuant to the provisions of the special order made Thursday, September 14, 1950.