

Felicitations

which was arrived at was carried out and that the business was done with care, efficiency and expedition.

(*Translation*):

May I also offer a word of thanks, Mr. Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker of the house for whom I have much admiration, I have perhaps more for the manner in which he presides over the deliberations of this house, because he does so with efficiency and with patience.

(*Text*):

There was one omission, sir, which I made at the last session of parliament which I would not want to make again, and it is that I omitted involuntarily to say a word of thanks to the chairman of committees. I am sure he will take no offence at that omission, and I want to repair it at once. I want to tell him that while I may have had some hesitation at some of the decisions which he has rendered in an earlier session, I have nothing but commendation for him on this occasion, more particularly because of the manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the committee during the session. He has proven to this house that he understands the rules and that he intends to put them into effect and into practice fairly and equitably.

Finally, sir, I think those who sit with me on this side of the house would wish me to extend in an especial manner our thanks to the house staff, who in these last few days have been hard put, because of the long hours during which we have had to sit in order to fulfil their duties. They have done them well, and to the *Hansard* reporters and to those who are responsible for the publication of *Hansard*, which during the sittings has always been on time in the morning, I express our thanks and our gratitude. From all of those who sit in the House of Commons our very best and good wishes for a happy and pleasant recess.

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, with respect to the remarks made by the hon. member for Laurier concerning yourself, the chairman of the committee, the house leader and the staff, I want to say a round amen. Also I trust the period of the recess will be spent by all hon. members of this house to the general advantage of the people of Canada.

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in this festival of brotherly love to thank the hon. member for Laurier for the delicate manner

in which he expressed the appreciation of all of us for those he named and to tell him how much I appreciate the thoughts he expressed in reference to the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Green) who is about to vacate his position as house leader and also to say that the example set by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Churchill) in the last few days is indicative of the fact that there are others who can hold that position in a way that will be acceptable to the entire house.

To the hon. member for Laurier and the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) I wish to express appreciation for the manner in which they brought about that spirit of co-operation which assures to the greatest degree possible the achievement of the responsibility that each of us has in his respective place in the house.

To you, sir, the custodian of the conscience of parliament, and to the Deputy Speaker and the chairman of the committees, I extend appreciation and thanks from all of us for the manner in which you have discharged your responsibilities, difficult though they are, to the complete satisfaction of the members of this house.

Hon. L. B. Pearson (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, perhaps I am out of order in rising at this time because two have already spoken from this side but may I in a word, as leader of the official opposition convey my best wishes and warm regards to the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker), his colleagues and hon. members of the house, I express the hope that they will have a happy recess and come back to the next session energetic and even wiser.

Mr. Speaker: It is usually the privilege of the Speaker to have the last word. I thought I had made my one and only speech of the session this afternoon when I had the pleasure of piloting through the committee the legislation estimates, but I am now inclined to comment on the irregular but very pleasant references that have been made to the conduct of the Speaker.

I am deeply grateful to all hon. members who have spoken so generously and I am also deeply grateful to all hon. members of the house for the co-operation they have accorded to me and the other officers of the house.

When my decisions were right, I perhaps expected acceptance of them, but it is a higher compliment to have received such general acceptance when they were wrong. I extend to all hon. members my good wishes for a happy recess.