

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, September 30, 1974

FIRST SESSION—THIRTIETH PARLIAMENT

[English]

The twenty-ninth parliament having been dissolved by proclamation on Thursday, May 9, 1974, and writs having been issued and returned, a new parliament was summoned to meet for the dispatch of business on Monday, September 30, 1974, and did accordingly meet on that day.

Monday, September 30, 1974

This being the day on which parliament is convoked by proclamation of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada for the dispatch of business, and the members of the House being assembled:

Alistair Fraser, Esquire, the Clerk of the House, read to the House a letter from the assistant secretary to the Governor General informing him that the Honourable Bora Laskin, Chief Justice of Canada, in his capacity as Administrator of the Government of Canada would proceed to the Senate chamber to open the first session of the thirtieth parliament of Canada on Monday, the thirtieth of September, at ten thirty o'clock.

A message was delivered by Major A. G. Vandelac, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, as follows:

Members of the House of Commons:

It is the desire of the Honourable the Deputy of His Excellency the Administrator of the Government of Canada that this honourable House attend him immediately in the chamber of the honourable the Senate.

Accordingly, the House went up to the Senate chamber, when the Speaker of the Senate said:

Honourable Members of the Senate,

and Members of the House of Commons:

I have it in command to let you know that His Excellency, the Administrator of the Government of Canada does not see fit to declare the causes of his summoning the present parliament of Canada until the Speaker of the House of Commons shall have been chosen according to law, but this afternoon, at the hour of three o'clock, His Excellency, the Administrator of the Government of Canada will declare the cause of calling this parliament.

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● (1050)

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

MR. JAMES JEROME, MEMBER FOR THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF SUDBURY

Right Hon. P. E. Trudeau (Prime Minister): Mr. Fraser, at this point—

An hon. Member: The same old bunch!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: The same old bunch, Mr. Fraser, but a little more numerous this time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: At this point in the opening of the thirtieth parliament we are engaged in the election of a Speaker. Few people outside this House realize how basic the choosing of this officer is to the functioning of this institution and to the course of our mandate for the next few years.

The qualities which a Speaker is supposed to possess are truly formidable. I doubt that anyone outside of politics would consider for a moment stepping into a position which demanded so much. My predecessor, the late Lester B. Pearson, when nominating a Speaker, described his qualities in the words of Socrates. Referring to the requirements for a judge, the Greek philosopher said: "Four things belong to a judge; to hear courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly and to decide impartially."

[Translation]

It is fitting that the Speaker of the House of Commons should seek inspiration from these wise words. At various times in our history, there have always been some exceptional men to take on the very difficult task of conducting with fairness and self-control the proceedings of colleagues with very decided and widely different political convictions. We are all aware of the courage and the wisdom, the experience and the sense of humour that this task requires.

Regardless of his background and of his political affiliation, the designated candidate is in duty bound to serve the members of parliament from all areas and of all political parties. This duty is fundamental.

On the other hand, during the proceedings of the House, members of parliament are equally in duty bound to co-operate fully and entirely with the Speaker, and I am certain that all join with me in wishing great success to the holder of this position. During three parliaments, Mr. Lucien Lamoureux served the House of Commons with the greatest distinction, in a most polished manner and with remarkable firmness.

It is difficult to find all these qualities in members of either official linguistic group. However, we always do, which undoubtedly proves the value of our system.

It is therefore with great pleasure and pride that I move that Mr. James Jerome be Speaker of the House during this parliament.

Mr. Jerome is a member of the government party. According to tradition, the Prime Minister designates the candidate to the position of Speaker and his nomination is moved according to the traditional rules.